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This report is dedicated to the people of Vanuatu, recently struck by catastrophic cyclone Pam, and to my wife, Susan, my inspiration.

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# **Executive Summary**

This report scientifically evaluates the disappearance in March 1967 of Jim Thompson ("JT"), the "Silk King of Thailand," in the Cameron Highlands (CH) of north central Malaysia. JT was on vacation at his friends' Moonlight Bungalow, apparently went for an afternoon walk in the jungle surrounding the bungalow, and was never seen again. This case made headlines around the world, since JT was one of the most famous Americans in south-east Asia at the time, was a decorated former intelligence and military officer, had resurrected the Thai silk industry, was a millionaire, and lived an amazingly glamorous lifestyle at his house-museum in Bangkok. His disappearance resulted in the biggest search for an individual in Malaysian (and perhaps south-east Asian) history. Not a trace was ever found.

Four non-fiction books, various novels, and hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles have been written about the case. (More are expected in 2017, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disappearance.) But virtually all these efforts have focused on JT's life or his times, and none have set out to scientifically evaluate the search effort itself. All writers have assumed that since the search was the "biggest" ground search in Malaysian history, it must have been the "best."

This report identifies 25 possible causes for the JT disappearance mentioned by the police, press, and other sources, or identified by me, analyzes these, and concludes that eleven causes can be reasonably eliminated from consideration. Two of the 25 causes (murder or manslaughter by a friend or associate in the CH, and death by various jungle elements) are new and have not been identified previously, but are unlikely, and twelve other causes must be considered still possible.

Of these causes, the simplest and most likely appears to be that JT just got lost in the rugged jungle ravines and/or had an accident (e.g., broken leg, foot or neck) there, and his remains are still there.

However, there are reasonable arguments against this scenario, the main one (reported here for the first time) being that three bloodhound-type dogs traced JT's scent all over the grounds of the Moonlight Bungalow, where JT was last seen, but could not track his scent into the jungle or down the access road away from the Bungalow. Therefore, early on, the Malaysian Army officers leading the search in 1967 concluded that JT probably left the Moonlight Bungalow in a car, and thus searching in the nearby jungle was not likely to lead to a find. They continued the jungle search for eleven days, but were not sanguine about results.

This report and my interviews show, however, that bloodhound-type dogs do make mistakes, and humans using scent material must handle it very carefully to avoid errors.

The report also contributes the following new work to the case:

- Interviews several still-living individual searchers from the 1967 SAR effort, including one search leader, to understand the strategy and tactics of the search teams.
- Evaluates the JT search effort from the perspective of modern search and rescue/recovery (SAR) methods. This includes the application of approaches used by the (US) National Association for

- Search and Rescue (NASAR) and the approaches and statistical analyses used by the well-known analyst Robert J. Koester in his seminal *Lost Person Behavior* and in email correspondence.
- Provides a detailed and systematic analysis of the subject (JT), in the terms that a modern SAR leader would want -- photos, physical characteristics, state of health, medications, state of mind, knowledge of the terrain, interests, finances, etc.
- Provides data that would be collected or evaluated in a modern search, including terrain and vegetation conditions, weather and time information, and sidereal and lunar data.
- Provides a timeline for JT for the several days leading up to the disappearance from the initial planning point (IPP). In this case the IPP is also the last known point, the LKP. (See the next bullet.) This is established as the Moonlight Bungalow (MB), atop a steep hill near Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia (lat/long: 04.492663 N; 101.377597 E, elevation 5118 feet above sea level) on Easter Sunday, 26 March 1967, at about 2:30 pm local Malaysian time.
- Evaluates all the eyewitnesses who reportedly saw JT after he left the IPP/LKP. This evaluation includes locational and distance analysis, using GPS locations and the distance between the reported eyewitness and JT's location. Exact GPS locations for all major sites and witnesses in the search are provided, so the reader can place these locations on Google Earth, and analyze the case himself. This section concludes that most eyewitnesses after the IPP/LKP are, unfortunately, of fairly low reliability, and seriously impeaches two witnesses as being too far away from JT to be credible. Because these supposed eyewitnesses are of low credibility, the IPP and the LKP are the same location and time.
- Estimates the total number of person days of searching contributed by all the searchers; this number is quite large, at about 1448. The primary search lasted 11 days, much longer than typical SAR efforts, which usually conclude after one full day, and searching went on sporadically for months. The report also provides various scenarios for the search tactics, and this analysis contributes to estimates of the size of the area actually searched.
- Calculates the approximate total area that was deemed in 1967 as the area that needed to be searched. This was about 17.7 square miles. The analysis concludes that it is likely that all of the entire area that reasonably needed to be searched, was not in fact searched. The actual searched area is estimated based on the tactics reported, the terrain, and the number of person days delivered, at roughly 11 square miles. (However, there is a very wide spread on this figure, depending on the assumptions made.) This estimate is apparently independently supported by Henry B. Thompson, the brother of JT, who stated on 10 June 1974 under examination at the New Castle County, Delaware Register of Wills, that "the forest was combed for 10 to 15 miles around" (see annex on the will and administration of JT). If by this he meant square miles, which he probably did, then this figure is in the same range. (My estimate was done before having the Henry B. Thompson statement in hand, and thus was independent of it.)
- Discusses the fact that the 1967 official search tactics assumed that the subject was within 200 yards of any trail searched, and this led to large areas further off the trails not being searched at all. This was possibly a major error, since JT was known to hike cross-country, off-trail.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Miles are usually used rather than kilometers throughout this report, since that was the measurement system generally in use in Malaysia in 1967.

- Discusses the "probability of detection" (PoD) in the primary search area (around and NW of the MB), and the concept of the "probability of area" (PoA the likelihood that the subject is in the segment that was searched, rather than in another nearby segment(s)). This report concludes that the overall probability of finding JT (the "probability of success," or PoS), calculated by PoD x PoA, was considerably lower than thought at the time. The rough estimate of PoS (overall probability of search success) determined here for the 1967 search is in the range of 30% to 43%. This means that there is a good chance, if JT's body was in the area of the CH, that the search effort missed him. This is in stark contrast to the official opinion and attitude at the time, which was basically: "The jungle has been searched and he is not there." (Such over-estimation of search efficacy is a classic error in SAR, even down to the present day.)
- Identifies possible errors in the 1967 SAR effort, from the point of view of modern professional SAR as described by NASAR. A number of likely and possible errors are identified.
- Identifies likely communications and management problems inherent in the large and complex nature of the search. This section includes the mathematical estimation, using reasonable assumptions, that if the JT search was, say, an order of magnitude larger (ten times larger) than the next largest search in Malaysia, then it was perhaps 150 times more likely to encounter major communications and management problems. This would, of course, have reduced the effectiveness of the search effort.
- Provides the best maps available at the time, as well as other maps of the region.
- Provides photos of all the major sites in the JT search, including photos of the jungle in the area, so the reader can estimate the difficulty of the search and understand the terrain.
- Acknowledges that it is possible that this was a "bogus search," (sometimes called a "bastard" search or an "investigative" search) meaning that JT had voluntarily or involuntarily left the CH area, so that searching there could never find him. The report evaluates and provides a copy of the most original account of a possible sighting of JT, in Tahiti, two months after the disappearance. This account was previously classified as "Secret," and was circulated at the time from the US Department of State to the CIA's head of the east Asia division, Bill Colby, later a famous Director of the CIA (US Central Intelligence Agency). The present analysis concludes that it is possible but not likely that this was an actual sighting of JT.
- Provides over 580 pages of original, primary source material, never before provided to the public or compiled in one place. This material includes interviews, contemporary and later news clippings, photos, maps, secret but now de-classified memos and reports from the US Department of State, items supplied by the CIA on JT's career in World War II as an officer in the Office of Strategic Services (OSS: the predecessor to the CIA), excerpts from a 1953 in-depth investigation into JT's background and loyalty to the US, undertaken by the FBI, a summary of the search efforts undertaken as described by the FBI in 1967, FBI memos describing interviews with JT's doctor, friends and relatives in 1967, and information on the wills and estates of JT, his sister and nephew, etc.
- Resolves the matter of the so-called "bones of Jim Thompson," which are purported to be the
  bones of JT that came from a burial after JT was accidentally hit and killed by a speeding truck,
  and his body buried far north of the accident site. Here the finding is that some bones did exist

in the Tanah Rata District Medical Office, but disappeared during an office move and are now lost. It is not certain that they were human bones, and there is no provable connection between these bones and Jim Thompson, despite assertions, stories and rumors to that effect. The most reliable person on this matter, the former, highly respected District Medical Officer who actually examined the bones and had them in his possession for a time, stated in an interview for this report that it is "far-fetched" to think there is any connection of the bones to the JT case.

- Provides a copy of the paper on the "Bones" by Capt. Philip Rivers, who contends that the bones were likely the bones of Jim Thompson. Provides my interviews on this important matter.
- Interviews various current experts on and observers of the JT case.
- Re finding the body of JT, scientifically analyzes the decomposition of bodies in a jungle environment, and finds that if JT's remains are in the CH, they are quite possibly spread over an area of one to four square miles, due to predation.
- Reviews a previously unreported but significant cache of letters from JT to Elizabeth ("Lisa")
   Lyons, his lover, friend and associate in art collecting, and provides copies of all the letters.
- Obtains and reviews information from previously unreleased FBI files and reports on the case.
- Describes sources tapped and other possible sources that might be fruitful for future researchers.
- Discusses the possible reasons why many of the US Department of State, US Department of
  Defense, FBI and CIA records which should exist and now be available to the public are in fact
  missing or still classified and inaccessible. Notes that of 126 pages of material on the JT case
  that could have been released by the FBI to me, only 99 were in fact released, and many of
  these were partially redacted.
- Provides relevant excerpts of the will and administration of the estate of JT, in Delaware, which dealt with JT's property in the USA.
- Provides relevant excerpts of the wills and administration of the estate of Katharine Thompson Wood, in Pennsylvania, the sister of JT.<sup>2</sup> She was beaten to death in her home in Pennsylvania just a few months after JT disappeared. This case is still unsolved. She made three wills, and her final will (treated as a codicil by the court), was a hand-written note drafted a year before she was murdered, and it made a dramatic change to the disposition of her estate, and substantially reduced the capital portion going to her son Harrison ("Harry") Wilson Wood. According to press reports, the county coroner, and the Pennsylvania State Police, he committed suicide four years after the murder of his mother. The analysis of this murder case in this report lists several possible suspects (or at least "persons of interest" POI), including the son, some of whom were not previously publicly identified, but concludes that there is no real proof against any of these people, although some are more likely than others.
- Provides relevant excerpts of the will, codicil and estate administration of Katharine Thompson Wood's son "Harry" Wood, who committed suicide by shooting himself with a hand gun in 1971.
- Notes that the FBI now admits in writing (but does not explain) to destroying (in 1978) files on or which may have pertained to the Katharine Thompson Wood murder case in Pennsylvania.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> JT's sister's first name is often spelled "Katherine," but in her 1958 will, in effect at the time of her death, the typewritten spelling and her signature are "Katharine," so that is the spelling used here.

- Provides the reader with all the Federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests made, and their outcome. (No foreign, state or municipal FOIA or similar requests were made.)
- Provides all interviews on the JT disappearance and the Katharine Thompson Wood murder in as word-for-word form as possible.
- Provides a "road map" for a way forward to undertake a more in-depth scientific analysis of the
  Jim Thompson disappearance mystery, and perhaps even solve the case. This approach would
  involve using the standard modern SAR techniques of probability theory analysis, Mattson
  scenario-building and voting, and human remains detection dogs (HRDs "cadaver dogs") to
  search the high probability areas in the Cameron Highlands identified during the Mattson
  process.

Hence this report does not claim to solve the Jim Thompson disappearance mystery, but does advance the case, opens a new line of inquiry, and offers an approach which might lead toward a clearance and resolution.

Good hunting!

Lew Toulmin



The Moonlight Bungalow in the Cameron Highlands, the last known point (LKP) for Jim Thompson

# **Acronyms in this Report**

CH Cameron Highlands, a small resort in the high jungles of north central peninsular Malaysia

CIA US Central Intelligence Agency

CTs Communist (or Chinese) Terrorists (term used during and after the Malay Emergency)

FBI US Federal Bureau of Investigation

FOIA US Freedom of Information Act (or requests under that Act)

GE Google Earth

HRD Human remains detection (dogs), often known as "cadaver dogs"

Helo Helicopter

IPP Initial planning point

JK Joshua Kurlantzick (author of *The Ideal Man*, a biography of Jim Thompson)

JT Jim Thompson

KL Kuala Lumpur (capital of Malaysia)

LAT Latitude

LE Law enforcement (personnel or agencies)

LKP Last known position (or point)

LoC US Library of Congress

LONG Longitude

MB Moonlight Bungalow (in Tanah Rata, CH, where JT was staying when he disappeared)

NASAR US National Association for Search and Rescue

OMF Overseas Mission Fellowship (bungalow in the CH near the MB)

OSS Office of Strategic Services (US agency in WW II, predecessor of the CIA)

PCV US Peace Corps Volunteer

PoA Probability of Area
PoD Probability of Detection
POI Person of interest

RAMC Royal Army Medical Corps (a division of the British Army)

SAR Search and rescue/recovery

US AID US Agency for International Development

USD United States dollar
US DoS US Department of State

USG US Government
WW II World War II
WX Weather conditions

# **Key Words for Indexing this Report in Databases**

• Edwin F. Black (Brig. Gen., US Army)

Disappearances

William Joseph "Wild Bill" Donovan

Cameron Highlands

Malaysia

Search and Rescue

The Siam Society

"Silk King of Thailand"

Tanah Rata

The Thai Silk Company, Ltd.

Thailand

Patricia Maury Thraves

• <u>James Harrison Wilson Thompson</u>

• James H.W. Thompson Foundation

Jim Thompson

• The Jim Thompson Thai House Museum

Katharine Thompson

Katharine Thompson Wood

• "Lew" Toulmin

Llewellyn Morgan Toulmin

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Note: in this report, items in square brackets: [xxxx] are comments or inserts by the author.

# **Purpose and Format of this Report**

The purpose of this report is to assemble the scientific evidence related to the 1967 Jim Thompson (JT) disappearance case in Malaysia, and the possibly related 1967 Katharine Thompson Wood murder case in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in the way that a SAR investigator or homicide detective would put together a case file or "murder book," but with the addition of various analyses, theories, scenarios and probability assessments. It is not intended as a best seller. The narrative consumes about 100 pages, and then annexes with original source material, including interviews, constitute the other 570+ pages.

Footnotes are used extensively to cite sources, so that these sources can be evaluated – sources on this case vary from reliable eyewitnesses, to persons who allege Jim Thompson was kidnapped and killed by a vicious gang of Chinese secret society members and Rotary Club thugs! (William Warren, *The New York Times*, 21 April 1968, copy in the annexes.) Many of the footnotes refer to the four books written on JT's life and the case; full citations are provided on these for readers wishing more information.

Interviews, pictures, maps, latitudes and longitudes of key positions, are all provided, so that future researchers interested in a scientific examination of the case can use this case file as a reference and starting point. Two versions of the report were prepared: a full version and a redacted version. The latter has the phone numbers, emails and addresses of the interviewees removed. The full version may be made available to serious, qualified researchers, law enforcement, or SAR staff, on request.

This report does not try to delve deep into the life of JT, or the politics of his era. These topics are discussed at great length in the four major previous books on the disappearance, and hence are only outlined here, to help reviewers decide if the search for JT in 1967 was a "bogus search" in SAR parlance, or a real search. A "bogus search" (also known as a "bastard" or "investigative" search) is one in which the victim has left the general search area, either voluntarily or involuntarily, and hence SAR resources used in the search area are being wasted, and searchers are being put at risk for no reason.

The annexes provide original source material that may be useful regarding the case and its main subject and his character, including information on Jim Thompson's war service in the OSS (predecessor to the CIA); documents showing that he was supplying arms and war materials to rebel groups in SE Asia in the 1950s; declassified letters and memos (mostly from the US State Department) on the disappearance; news clippings on the JT case and on the murder of his sister; a cache of letters written to and by JT; information on his will and administration in Delaware, etc. None of these original source materials were presented in any previous books or articles (although some have been footnoted and/or discussed). The annexes also provide detailed summaries of all interviews, as word-for-word as possible, that I conducted regarding the search, disappearance and murder cases.

# Introduction and Summary of the Disappearance and Murder

The Jim Thompson case is in essence very simple. An important, wealthy and creative man was on vacation at a small resort in the high rugged jungle of Malaysia, apparently went for a Sunday afternoon walk, and disappeared without a trace, despite a massive search.

All previous analyses of the Jim Thompson case have focused on his exotic life, and have treated the search for him in the jungle as a philosophical "black box," which is unknowable and unanalyzable. Furthermore, all previous analyses have generally taken as likely or certain that since the search was "the biggest search for a missing person in Malaysian history," it was also the "best" search in Malaysian history, and that there is no point in questioning this assertion, and no way to dispute or even assess this assumption. Most writers have explicitly or tacitly agreed with H.G. Torbert, an Assistant Director of Congressional Relations for the US Department of State, who reviewed the situation and stated in 1969 in a letter to US Senator Edmund Muskie that the JT search had been "thorough and exhaustive" (Galleher, p. 162).

Yet most writers on the case would acknowledge, even if wedded to a conspiracy and murder theory, that there is at least a one percent chance that JT's body is lying somewhere, unfound, in the Cameron Highlands (CH) jungle. And even the most adamant advocate of the idea that JT just got lost and died in the jungle (and there are very few of these advocates, except, perhaps, William Warren), would acknowledge that there is at least a one percent chance that he left the CH, either voluntarily or not, and his body is elsewhere, far outside the CH search area.

So there is a wide range of possibilities, between 1 and 99 percent, that JT's remains are still inside the general search area. It is the goal of this report to use modern SAR techniques to derive a more accurate and narrow percentage estimate for this range. It is also the purpose of this report to advance the case in a scientific way, to eliminate causes for the disappearance that are not credible, to scientifically evaluate all alleged eyewitnesses, and to suggest fruitful ways in which additional research could further refine the estimates and even perhaps solve the case. All of this is new work.

Katharine Thompson Wood, the elder sister of JT, was murdered in her home in Chester County, Pennsylvania a few months after JT disappeared. She was bludgeoned to death with a blunt instrument in a vicious and very bloody crime, yet nothing was stolen, she was not molested, her two guard dogs did not protect her, and not a clue was left at the scene. According to the Pennsylvania State Police cold case officer, the case is considered open and unsolved, as of 2014-5 (see interviews). With regard to this case, it is the purpose of this report to review the information available (which is unfortunately rather limited), and to establish the likelihood (or not) that this murder was related to the JT disappearance. This report does name possible suspects or "persons of interest," and provides analysis of arguments for and against these persons being POIs, but concludes that there is not enough evidence to point definitively to any particular person.

# **Previous Major Research and Theories**

#### **Books**

There are four non-fiction books specifically on JT's life and disappearance (and there are also various novels inspired by the case). Most of these four focus more on his life than on the disappearance or the search tactics. In order of my ranking of their reliability, these four non-fiction works are:

William Warren, *Jim Thompson: The Unsolved Mystery* (Singapore: Archipelago Press, 1998 (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.); first published in 1970 as *The Legendary American*). Warren was a close friend of JT and concludes that JT was kidnapped, did away with himself, or had a "simple accident" in the jungle (pp. 234-5). However, he states that none of these theories is really satisfactory. The book is well written, has a neutral tone and credible detail, and contains some useful, but short, information on the search effort. It should be noted that Warren was not at the scene during the 1967 search, but rather was located in Bangkok, and used interviews and secondary sources in his write-up. His book came out originally just three years after the JT disappearance.

Joshua Kurlantzick, *The Ideal Man: The Tragedy of Jim Thompson and the American Way of War* (Hoboken NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2011). Writing very recently, Kurlantzick seems to think that JT was likely murdered by Thai business rivals, and that it was "easy" in Thailand to get rid of a competitor for a modest price (pp. 202-3). He offers no proof, unfortunately, not does he explain how the assassin knew about the trip to the CH (known only to JT's "closest friends" according to Galleher) or engineered the murder and disappearance of the body far from the assassin's likely home base in Bangkok. Nor does he explain why such an assassination should take place in the difficult-to-access area of the CH (and an area where almost every stranger was noticed), rather than in easy-to-access, anonymous locations such as Bangkok, Penang or Singapore. Nor does he deal with the difficulty an assassin would have in figuring out when to make his move, how to observe the MB, and how to dispose of the body. Reading between the lines (see page 153), it seem likely that Kurlantzick thinks that the true culprit was the wife of Field Marshal (and deceased Prime Minister) Sarit of the Thai army; she is described as a "vile...ruthless" woman and business rival of JT. The book is more a biography of JT and an analysis of his turbulent times than an analysis of the disappearance, but it does have much useful and excellent information in terms of profiling JT as the subject of the investigation.

Kurlantzick's volume is well written, analytical, and generally properly footnoted. It relies on unnamed CIA sources for certain key items, and some important assertions are not footnoted. It focuses on documenting, analyzing and criticizing the CIA, the war in Vietnam, and various Thai political figures, and only has about a page on the actual disappearance timeline and clues (p. 184) and a few pages (186-9) on the search. The book allows little chance that the cause was an accident in the jungle. Surprisingly, the book does not mention or analyze the murder of JT's sister.

In email correspondence with me, Kurlantzick (a researcher/writer at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, DC) stated that he might have some Malaysian police reports re the JT disappearance. Naturally I requested copies, and said that these might be the "Holy Grail" of the search analysis. He stated via email he would look for these items, but eventually and unfortunately went silent, did not respond to emails, and never produced these important documents.

Mr. Henry Thompson, nephew of Jim Thompson, was interviewed for Kurlantzick's book, but did not seem happy with the product, and called the book a "turkey" in a note to me. (See annex.) He did not elaborate on this judgment.

Martha Galleher, *The Missing Thai Silk King: A Niece's Search for Jim Thompson* (no publishing location cited, but probably Baltimore, MD: self-published, 2007). Ms. Galleher, a niece of Jim Thompson (who had no children) feels that the most likely explanation for the disappearance was that JT was still involved in intelligence work, left the MB to go on a secret mission to China, and there tried to get China to reconcile its differences with the US, and then get China to put pressure on North Vietnam to end the Vietnam war. Unfortunately, she offers no proof whatsoever for this opinion. She also pursued various lines of inquiry for many years, including the theory that JT went to Cambodia. She approached Prince Sihanouk, the ruler of Cambodia, about this possibility, and even got responses from him and got him to "open an investigation," which turned up nothing. Her book is quite useful for extensive quotes from State Department and other reports she received in 1967-8. (Almost none of which are now present in the US archives or via FOIA from US DoS.)

Edward Roy De Souza, *Solved! The "Mysterious" Disappearance of Jim Thompson, the Legendary Thai Silk King* (Tarentum, PA: Word Association Publishers, 2010). This book concludes that JT intentionally disappeared, exited the Cameron Highlands in one of two black cars with Thai license plates that were traveling together, was spotted in these cars by several witnesses, and two months later was seen in Tahiti. Thus JT intentionally disappeared to create another life elsewhere. Unfortunately, the book's lack of proof, lack of discussion or identification of real eyewitnesses who could be examined, lack of detail or critical analysis, and its rather poor writing, reduces its credibility.

De Souza does provide helpful information on the size of the search effort and the personalities involved. He does not allow for the possibility that JT was the victim of an accident and that JT's body was missed by the searchers in the jungle.

The quality of the analysis and writing should be taken into account in evaluating assertions by the various writers.

#### Other Researchers or Actors

<u>Capt. Mokh Ta Mohammad</u>. He participated in and was a leader in the 1967 JT search, as a Lieutenant in the Malaysian Army. He was interviewed in detail during this analysis (see the annex on interviews; he had never before been interviewed on this case). He feels (as did the other search leaders) that JT voluntarily left the MB compound in a car, and never entered the jungle. This attitude was based on search "trailing" dog evidence, in which three bloodhound-type dogs searched around the MB, and would not leave the MB area and could not trail JT's scent into the jungle or down the only access road. (This search dog evidence has never before been described by any other writer, journalist or analyst.)

Note that Capt. Mohammad's account of fairly extensive dog use directly contradicts William Warren, who (p.136) states that only "one elderly bloodhound" was used on the second search day, "failed to scent anything," and the "regular police pack" from Ipoh were not used at all, due to disease or non-availability. This contradiction is unresolved, but I lean strongly toward the Captain, since he was very present and active at the scene, and Warren was not.

<u>Capt. Phillip J. Rivers</u>. Rivers is a researcher and former Singapore police officer who lives in the CH and has taken a serious interest in the case. He was interviewed at length during this analysis (see the annexes). He presented a paper on the JT case in 2010 at Ipoh, Malaysia (his interview contains a copy of the paper). He feels that JT was hit by accident by a speeding truck, and his body transported by the driver to a location north of Tanah Rata, and buried, where the bones were found many years later. These became the "bones of Jim Thompson," which were located in the Tanah Rata District Medical Office. (However, my interviews with District Medical Officers in the CH show that these bones have now been lost, and that there is, unfortunately, no provable connection between JT and the now-lost bones. In fact, the bones may not have even been human.)

Capt. Rivers' views on the case are of interest partly because he states that he once had possession of the original or copies of all or part of the Malaysian police file on the JT case, and he used these documents in drafting his 2010 paper. (The local police and the Police Museum in KL do not now possess any relevant files.) He is not sure where this file is now, and thinks he may have lent it at his 2010 paper presentation to a lawyer (name now forgotten by Rivers) who attended the meeting. These files, if found, would be extremely valuable in advancing the case.

Donald Smith, West Kingston, RI. Mr. Smith is researching the JT and KTW cases, and feels they are closely connected to the Nugan Hand Bank scandal, in which an Australian merchant bank was fraudulently created in 1973 and allegedly conducted numerous criminal activities through 1980, when one founder was found dead of a gunshot wound (perhaps a suicide) and the other disappeared, along with \$50 million. (See Wikipedia for more details.) This bank reportedly had numerous connections with the CIA and US military, including (according to Smith) General Edwin Black (a friend of and searcher for JT), and is part of a 30-year-long conspiracy reaching up to the Iran-Contra scandal. Mr. Smith thinks that JT did not go for a hike the day of his "disappearance," but rather hid in the house and was secretly driven by Dr. Ling to a clandestine meeting the next morning. Then JT disappeared to start another life. Smith is planning a book on this subject.<sup>3</sup>

#### Psychics, Mystics, Nessie, Bigfoot, Etc.

Probably because a substantial reward was offered, and mysticism has deep roots in Thailand, Malaysia and SE Asia, over 118 psychics and mystics came forward in 1967 and 1968 to offer their advice on where JT was located and what had happened to him. ("Clue Lies in the Bones," *The Star*, 30 March 2010.) None of this advice led to any concrete or verifiable results.

Surprisingly, no-one suggested that JT was abducted by aliens.

Such involvement of psychics or mediums has no place in this scientific report, had no input into it, and little or no reference to these many theories or visions will be made in this analysis. While scores or even hundreds of pages in the previous books on the disappearance deal with the responses of these psychics, there will be no such discussion here.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Phone interview, March 2015 and email transmission, April 2015.

It is interesting that the FBI in files (revealed here for the first time) states that one of these prominent psychics in the JT case was a known charlatan, but that the FBI was careful to not alert people outside the Bureau to this fact, not even a US Army general very closely involved in the case.

# The Subject of the Search

# **Images of Jim Thompson**



Jim Thompson during World War II (Time Tunnel Museum)



Jim Thompson shortly before his disappearance (Time Tunnel Museum)



Jim Thompson shortly before his disappearance (Time Tunnel Museum)



Jim Thompson with spindles of his Thai silk (*Tio People*, of Malaysia)

## **Background of the Subject**

- Full name: James Harrison Wilson Thompson; generally known as "Jim Thompson"
- 61 years old in 1967, born March 21, 1906, in Greenville, Delaware, USA, to a prominent family. Youngest of five children. Father was a wealthy textile manufacturer.
- Graduated from Princeton University in 1928; then studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania but did not get a second degree.
- Practiced architecture and interior design between 1931 and 1940. His annual salary rose from \$2400 in 1931 to \$8000 in 1940 (OSS/CIA FOIA<sup>4</sup>); this latter was a comfortable sum but did not account for his later wealth.
- Was a liberal in politics, and switched from Republican to Democrat shortly before WW II
- Spoke and read French fluently
- Introduced during WW II to Patricia "Pat" Maury Thraves, a "beautiful model" "18 years his junior" whom he married and later divorced.<sup>5</sup> JT was introduced in 1942 to Thraves by Edwin Black, the US Army officer and later Brigadier General who participated in the search for JT in Malaysia in 1967. (Galleher, pp. 1 and 35.)
- Joined the military (Delaware National Guard (DeSouza, p. 3)) as a private in November 1940 (OSS/CIA FOIA), then a year later was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant. Served in the United States in the US Army Coastal Artillery Command (CAC; from OSS/CIA FOIA). Transferred to the OSS (Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA), in the fall of 1943, later serving in France (from a base in north Africa), the Balkans (apparently from a base in Italy), Ceylon and Siam (Thailand). This service almost certainly included training and activities in hand to hand fighting, evasion and escape, jungle warfare, explosives, and spying and sabotage behind enemy lines. It is documented that he was certified during the war in the use of a Colt .45 pistol and a machine gun (OSS annex and CIA/OSS FOIA), but he was likely expert in many other weapons. (No detailed factual account of JT's actual war activities has ever surfaced.) His "Type of Duty" during his overseas OSS service was first as an "intelligence officer" and later as an "executive officer" (meaning deputy to a commanding officer; OSS/CIA FOIA).
- When his niece Martha Galleher (p. 45) asked JT about his activities in WW II, JT told her to read the non-fiction book *The White Rabbit*, by Bruce Marshall, about F.F.E. Yeo-Thomas. Thomas was a British Special Operations Executive (SOE) agent and saboteur, who parachuted into France during the war to undertake sabotage missions, was captured, tortured, and sent to several prison camps and concentration camps, where he tried unsuccessfully to escape. Thomas survived the war and eventually lived in France. JT did reveal to Martha that he (JT) "parachuted into France" on a "secret OSS mission" (Galleher, p. 59).

<sup>4</sup> This reference is used when material was obtained in hard copy via FOIA from the CIA on JT's OSS career, but the material is not included in the annexes for reasons of space.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> According to various sources on www.ancestry.com, Patricia Maury Thraves was born on 29 August 1920 (or 22 February 1920) in Virginia. She married JT on 30 June 1943 at Ft. Monroe, Virginia, and divorced him near the end of 1946. She later remarried and had children but separated from her second husband and died in California in 1969. (Galleher, p. 35; Ancestry.com)

- JT was trained in jungle warfare and survival in Ceylon, for a mission to parachute into Thailand to help the Thai resistance movement against the Japanese. But this parachute mission did not occur, since atomic bombs were dropped on Japan and the war ended just before he was to jump into Thailand. (Warren, pp. 42-43). JT flew into Bangkok instead. JT won five Bronze Stars for his OSS service and exploits. (JK, p. 33, and FBI annex.)
- Late in the war but while in Thailand, JT "received orders to go off to someplace in China" (Denis Horgan, *The Bangkok World* (West Hartford, CT: Bluefoot Books, 2013, p. 57). [Note that this timing contradicts the time line immediately above.]
- By June 1946, JT had attained the rank of Lt. Colonel in the US Army/OSS (OSS/CIA FOIA), thus rising from private to Lt. Col. in less than six years, a terrific achievement.
- During the war, JT was promoted rapidly and generally received good evaluations, but one very critical report during training, on 8 August 1945, gave him a very low mark in "cooperation," and stated that "this officer...is interested only in himself" (OSS/CIA FOIA).
- After the war, JT served as the top OSS officer (the "General Attaché;" see annex) in Bangkok, apparently for about 10 months (February 1946 through November or December 1946; the service records are not clear), working closely with Thai political leaders and various resistance leaders around south-east Asia. He was thus for this period the equivalent of a modern CIA Chief of Station, a very powerful position.
- JT resigned from US intelligence (the OSS) on 1 January 1947 (JK, p. 91; US National Archives; see Annexes for a copy of the resignation letter) but reportedly continued to work with the intelligence community as a CIA asset and agent (but not officer), setting up key meetings with his many contacts. (JK, p. 91.)
- An OSS personnel memo from 9 December 1946 states that JT, "formerly General Attaché at Bangkok, has returned from post....He will not return to Siam in the Government service."
   Interestingly, the next sentence is completely redacted -- after 70 years! (See annex.) From the context of the first sentence, it seems possible that JT was immediately appointed as an "illegal" upon his resignation as an OSS officer – meaning that he would return to Siam and work for US intelligence as a private person, not under diplomatic cover.
- A week after he officially resigned, JT was invited by an OSS official to a "faculty meeting" of the
  OSS Far East Office, "a regular gathering at which the whole outfit discusses various
  problems...you might like to set forth your views on Laos, etc....the meeting will be attended by
  John Carter Vincent and all the Far East big shots." (OSS/CIA FOIA.)
- JT was accused in writing in a formal protest by the French government in the 1950s of smuggling arms and supplies to the anti-colonial forces in Cambodia (National Archives II, see annex). He was more influential and certainly more famous than most American diplomats and intelligence officers in Thailand. He was described by Secretary of the US Navy Paul Fay in 1963 as "the most important American in Southeast Asia today" (Galleher, p. 156).
- Although JT is thought by many observers and press writers to have been an important figure in US intelligence as late as his disappearance, Horgan (*Bangkok World*, pp. 60-61) disagrees, and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> John Carter Vincent (1900-1972) was a distinguished diplomat and China hand, who was Director of the US State Department's Bureau of Far Eastern Affairs during this period (Wikipedia).

- states that by the time of the 1960s and the Vietnam War, "there was a younger and different crowd sailing that ship."
- JT formed the Thai Silk Company in 1948 with \$25,000 USD in capital, and owned about 25 percent of the shares (JK, p. 93.) or 90 of 500 shares (Warren, pp. 67-68). Through this investment and through an inheritance, he was a millionaire. In fact, even after his company, house and antiques were given to a foundation, his residual wealth, distributed to eight nephews and nieces, was reported at \$1.1 million USD (O. Wells Foster clip file, see annexes). (This amount would be worth about \$8 million USD in 2014 (www.usinflationcalculator.com) or between \$6 million and \$21 million (www.measuringworth.com)). (Note, however, that the estate administration papers on file in Delaware (see annex) show that the JT estate in the USA was considerably smaller than reported in the press, about only 10-15% of the press figure.)
- JT was decorated with the very prestigious Order of the White Elephant by the Thai government, in recognition of his development of the Thai silk industry (Warren, p. 121).
- JT later apparently became opposed to US involvement in Vietnam, and by 1967 had supposedly turned against the CIA and US government policies (JK, p. 200). However, JT's friend and biographer William Warren (pp. 226-7) states that JT had "little or nothing to say about the Vietnam war" and "rebuked" a critic of the war. It is not clear if JT was still helping the CIA in the middle 1960s, or if his assistance was no longer wanted since he was (or may have been) questioning the wisdom of US involvement in Vietnam, or (per Horgan) was simply no longer a real player.

#### **Physical Description of the Subject**

- "Medium height" (Warren, p. 19); 5 feet 9.5 inches tall (OSS WW II service record from 1945; see annexes); "small stature" (Galleher, p. 24); about 5 feet 10 inches tall in March 1967 (Horgan interview). In a 4 May 1967 FBI letterhead memorandum (LHM), an unnamed (redacted) respondent states that JT was 5'9" tall (this LHM is in the annexes). From context it appears that this respondent is very likely Martha Galleher.
- Blue eyed (Warren, p. 19); "bright blue eyes" (JK, p. 4); blue eyes (FBI LHM of 4 May 1967)
- Grey hair (FBI LHM of 4 May 1967)
- Soft spoken (Warren, p. 19)
- Deeply tanned (Warren, p. 19)
- Large nose, wrinkled brow, balding, deep voice, intense stare (Galleher, p. 24)
- Somewhat overweight in 1967 (Warren, p. 19); 150 pounds in WW II (OSS service record). Horgan (interview) states that he estimates that JT was about 175 pounds in March 1967. In the FBI LHM of 4 May 1967, the redacted respondent (likely Galleher) states that JT weighed 155 pounds. From examining photos of JT shortly before the disappearance and photos of him at his trim fighting weight in WW II of 150 pounds, it seems likely that Horgan's estimate of JT's weight at about 175 pounds in March 1967 is closer to the mark.
- Right handed (Capt. Mohammad interview and Horgan interview)
- "Shabby dresser" from a redacted FBI informant in Thailand (FBI memo of 3 May 1967 on the JT case; see annex)

Blood type: AB (from "Immunization Register for Thompson, J.H.W.," OSS/CIA FOIA).

Unfortunately, no sources found give his exact, certain height and weight at the time of the disappearance, or whether he had ever had any broken bones or unusual dental work. Medical and dental records would be useful to locate and preserve, in case the remains of JT are ever found.

#### **Physical and Medical Condition of the Subject**

JT exhibited the following physical and medical conditions in the 1960s:

- Unusually susceptible to bronchial disorders, had been in the hospital with pneumonia twice in the previous three years (Warren, p. 19)
- Had "recurring bouts of pneumonia" several years ago [before 1967] (Galleher, p. 104) or "had twice had pneumonia in the last two years" (Galleher, p. 64)
- For the past year (before March 1967) had been subject to painful gallstone attacks; was prescribed pills which he was to take if he felt an attack coming on; had reluctantly accepted advice that he must have a gall bladder operation soon (Warren, p. 19).
- JT's gall stone condition was so severe that when he had his first attack, in a London hotel room, he "thought it was a heart attack and was convinced he was going to die" (Warren, p. 19).
- "Was once found so sick he couldn't get out of bed, but he refused to call a doctor" (JK, p. 150; this was apparently not long before the disappearance).
- Was a "frail 61-year-old" (Horgan, *Bangkok World*, p. 64). Horgan knew JT well and visited his house regularly in the company of Brigadier General Black.
- Despite all the above apparent problems, on 8 May 1967 (about five weeks after the disappearance) the FBI interviewed JT's regular doctor in Chicago, Richard B. Capps, MD, and Capps stated that he had examined JT on 6 October 1966 (about six months before the disappearance). At this examination JT reported that he had had gallstone attacks about every six months and these caused pain, nausea and vomiting. Capps also stated that JT had had amoebic dysentery since 1962. Capps found no indication of heart disease or hypertension, and doubted that the gallstone or dysentery could be related to the disappearance. (8 May 1967 FBI report, see annex.)

#### **Medications Taken by the Subject**

JK took the following medications for his ailments in the 1960s:

- "Gall stone pills" for a gall bladder malady. (JK, p. 184.)
- "Antibiotics and tinctures of opium to numb pain and sleep better" and "checked in and out of the Bangkok Nursing Home [a major hospital in Bangkok]...to clear his body of dysentery and various tropical bugs" (JK, p. 149).
- Galleher (pp. 5 and 54) states that JT "was very patriotic and kept cyanide pills beside his bed in Bangkok [as late as 1961 and perhaps later], to take in case the Communists overran" the city. This she felt was proof that he was a CIA asset and hence he felt he could not be taken alive.

- JT was given "periodic vitamin B-12 shots" by the doctor wife of an employee at the Thai Silk Company (Galleher, p. 68).
- "At one point in the early 1960s," JT's doctors had him "gulping down over forty different pills per day" for dysentery, gallstones, pneumonia and "amoebas" (JK, p. 135).

#### **Clothing and Possessions of the Subject**

When he departed the MB, the "last known point" or LKP (or IPP), JT was dressed as follows and had the following possessions with him:

- Was wearing a "short sleeved white shirt and grey trousers" (Rivers ms., p. 8; annex).
- Was wearing a "long sleeved white shirt and gray trousers" (Straits Times, 30 March 1967)
- Was wearing "dark blue slacks" (Warren, p. 137)
- Was wearing a "short sleeved shirt, light silk trousers, and loafers" (Warren, p. 231)
- Was wearing "shorts, and leather dress shoes" and "left his jacket behind on the verandah chair" (Capt. Mohammad interview). Horgan (interview) states that in this casual holiday situation JT probably would have worn "loafers."
- Did not take his "passport, his gallstone pills, his jacket, or any other warm clothing" (JK, p. 184) when he left the MB. According to De Souza (p. 23), JT left behind his "suit jacket, a pill box, a packet of cigarettes and a lighter." Galleher states (p. 23) that JT left behind his "suit jacket on a chair on the veranda [sic], his cigarettes, lighter, pillbox with gallbladder pills, passport, another suit, and a suitcase left in his room."
- Warren (p. 19) states that the gall stone medicine box was a silver antique box given to JT by one of his sisters. JT jokingly called this box his "jungle box" since he carried it on trips upcountry. (It is apparently this box he left behind in the MB.) Warren (p. 225) also states that JT may have left behind his gall stone pills because he distained them "as a sign of weakness."
- In a remarkable statement apparently reported here for the first time, the FBI report on the case (27 April 1967; see annex) states that "all the victim's personal effects including wallet, cigarettes, etc. were left behind in the cottage..." (emphasis added). "From these effects, it has been determined he held Delaware Driver's License #171784, and U.S. Passport Z 462289..." (Leaving behind his wallet was surely not the act of a man planning to start a new life somewhere else, or intending to meet an intelligence contact.)
- JT only had about \$100 USD worth of currency on him in the CH, according to Warren (p. 22); enough for about a week of minor expenses in the CH and Singapore. However, assuming the "wallet" statement in the FBI report is accurate, JT did not even take his money with him!
- It is clear from the various sources that JT took no camping or survival gear, water canteens, sleeping bag, parang (Malay version of a machete but better), food, knife, matches or other equipment. (Warren, p. 231, states this explicitly.) Furthermore, it is reasonable to infer that any such missing items would have been noted in the search of the MB and the questioning of its owners.
- No sources report what kind of belt buckle, watch or rings JT was wearing; this is unfortunate, since these might help identify his body if found. Horgan (interview) indicates that JT may not

have worn a belt, but rather just casual slacks. Horgan states that JT usually wore a watch with a dark leather strap on his left wrist, with the clock face on the upper side of the wrist. Examination of the photos of JT shortly before the disappearance show a watch on the left wrist, and it appears (but is not certain) that he had on no ring or rings, and no neck or other jewelry.

## Habits, Orientation and Temperament of the Subject

- JT was a chain smoker (JK, p. 184), who "could barely go an hour without a smoke" but who "had not taken his cigarettes with him" when he disappeared (ibid.). According to Capt. Mohammad (see his interview) JT had tobacco or burn stains from smoking, on his right hand. The captain stated that JT left his pills and cigarettes in his room at the MB.
- Warren (p. 225) states that JT was "trying to cut back on smoking" and that may explain why he left behind his cigarettes. Horgan (interview) states that as a smoker, JT might have taken 2-3 cigarettes with him, while leaving behind the pack.
- Capt. Mohammad also states that JT smoked a cigar on the MB verandah before leaving the MB, and the cigar stub was found there.
- JT drank liquor sparingly despite entertaining celebrities, movie stars, visiting diplomats and other dignitaries almost every night in Bangkok at his celebrated collection of antique Thai houses. (Warren, pp. 19-20.) He was not a gourmet and did not over-indulge in food (De Souza, p. 15), although he was apparently about 25 pounds heavier in 1967 than his trim 150 pound OSS World War II weight (Horgan). While some people thought JT's dinner party food was excellent, his friend William Warren called it "some of the worst food I ever ate." (Interview in "Jim Thompson: The Man and the Legend" Part II, YouTube, minute 3:10.)
- Galleher (p. 188) states that rumors surfaced after the disappearance that JT might be a homosexual (despite his marriage during the war) and this might have something to do with the case, but notes that she "questioned many women, single and married, with whom [JT] had affairs, and they all thought this [idea] was absurd." By contrast, O. Wells Foster, who knew the family in Delaware/Pennsylvania, states that "it was well known that JT was a homosexual." (See the interviews section.) The FBI files (annex) state that two "reliable sources" including one in the CH at a local hotel reported that JT was homosexual. JK (p. 136-7) states that JT had numerous affairs with married women in Bangkok, and vigorously pursued and wanted to marry Amelia "Meli" Rangsit, wife of Prince Sanidh Rangsit of Thailand. JT reportedly had a brief affair in about 1955 with Elizabeth (Lisa) Lyons, fellow art lover, a US DoS cultural attache, and later curator at the Penn Museum (Alessandro Pezzati, "Jim Thompson, the Thai Silk King," Penn Museum Expedition, Vol. 53, No. 1, Spring 2011; see also the annex on the Lyons letters, which includes a letter making it clear that they had had an affair). The first of the Lyons letters implies that JT had as a lover or admirer a woman named "Andrée" who was jealous of Lyons, and who loved JT, but he did not really reciprocate her feelings.
- Regarding JT's temper, "If angered, he was like a charging bull, but these moods never lasted long." JT was "open-hearted," so people often took advantage of him. (Galleher, p. 24)

#### Finances of the Subject

JT was a co-owner of the famous Oriental Hotel in Bangkok for a short period immediately after the war, but sold out his interest quickly, discouraged by its run down condition (De Souza, p. 8). (This is now one of the most famous hotels in Asia -- he should have held on to it!)

According to JK (pp. 150-153), JT's company, the Thai Silk Company, Ltd. "was profitable in the 1960s, grossed some \$1.5 million in 1965 and employed over three thousand people." However, the company was gradually being threatened by competitors who tried to undercut JT's company on price, sacrificing quality. JT's company survived his death and is still a leading force in Thailand, selling very well to tourists and locals alike. JK states (p. 151) that JT seemed fairly unconcerned about his competition.

Warren (pp. 67-68) stated that the Thai Silk Company was founded with 500 shares, that Thompson held 90 shares but gave away six for various reasons (e.g., to a weaver who built his house compound), and thus was holding 84 of the 500 at the time of his disappearance.<sup>7</sup>

I estimate that these shares were likely worth about \$352,800 USD in 1967. This is calculated as follows: turnover of \$1.5 million (Warren, p. 127) times assumed profit margin of 20 percent times seven years (time frame an investor is likely willing to pay for) times 84/500 = \$352,800.) This was very comfortable indeed for 1967, but not in the millionaire class.

Thompson was in fact a millionaire, however, due to his inheritance of a substantial (unnamed) business in the US from a cousin in the 1950s (Warren, p. 68). JT "rarely touched" this nest egg (ibid.).

JT's salary as director of the Thai Silk Company in the late 1960s was \$33,000 per year plus bonuses, a very comfortable amount. (Warren, p. 67.)

JT's biographers do not mention any debts accumulated from gambling, drug usage or other unwise practices.

Hence, unlike in some suicides or intentional disappearances, it does not appear that large debts or a failing business were a problem here. There is no evidence that has been published that JT extracted funds from his company or bank accounts to use in creating a new identity elsewhere.

#### Relationships and Associates of the Subject

JT had close associations with many powerful and famous people and institutions, including:

• OSS Director and later US Ambassador to Thailand William "Wild Bill" Donovan. Donovan endorsed JT's promotion to Major in the OSS, and later greeted JT "like a long lost fraternity brother" when the two lived in Thailand at the same time after the war. (Galleher, p. 45.)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Note that JK (p. 93) has a different view of the shares situation. He states that JT founded the company with \$25,000 USD raised from himself and a small group of investors, including old friends from the US and a member of the royal family, Prince Sanidh Rangsit, that he "only owned about 25 percent" of the shares, and that he "gave away much of those shares."

Donovan served as US Ambassador to Thailand from 4 September 1953 to 21 August 1954 (Wikipedia). He was one of the most famous and powerful men of his era.

- US intelligence. JT was indisputably a member of the OSS through 1 January 1947, when he resigned (see the annexes for a signed copy of the resignation letter). Information at the US National Archives indicates that he was almost certainly running guns and supplies to resistance groups in Cambodia in the 1950s, thus annoying the French government, who complained vigorously to the US Department of State. (See reports in the annexes.) It seems likely that he was doing this in cooperation with and perhaps under the direction of the CIA. But by 1967 it appears that JT's anti-Vietnam war stand had led to a break in relations (JK, p. 193). The CIA station chief in Bangkok stated to Martha Galleher that "Jim was not CIA. I tried to recruit him at his house one day but he flatly refused. You know I was in charge of the Thompson [disappearance] case in Bangkok." (Galleher, p. 187) Of course this un-named station chief could have been lying, or twisting language, to say that he was trying to get JT back as a CIA officer, while he was already a CIA asset. (JK, p. 192, names this CIA station chief as Robert Jantzen.) But it seems likely that by 1967 JT was just another businessman, albeit well-connected, who didn't like the war in Vietnam. Horgan (interview) even states that JT may have supported the war somewhat, and thus appears to contradict JK's main thesis.
- Leaders of various factions in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos and elsewhere in the region. Through his OSS work in 1946, and later work in supporting rebel groups, JT clearly knew most of the major players in the region, and had relationships with many. For example, JT told Galleher that he "helped Pridi Phanomyong [WW II leader of the Free Thai Movement and later Prime Minister of Thailand] escape Thailand after the 1947 coup" and that "he was my friend." (Galleher, p. 67.) Confirming this, De Souza (p. 4) states that JT, while serving in Ceylon, was assigned to help the Free Thai Movement, and especially its leader, Pridi. In another example, JT was "the first American official to make contact, in 1946, with Prince Souvanna Phouma, leader of the Lao independence movement who became head of the Pathet Lao." (Galleher, p. 76, citing *Life* magazine.)
- US Brigadier General Edwin Fahey Black. General Black was in charge of US forces in NE Thailand, but left his post (and was criticized for doing so) to search for JT immediately after the disappearance. (Horgan, *Bangkok World*, pp. 61-62.) Black had introduced JT to the woman who became JT's wife during WW II (Patricia Maury Thraves). Black and JT were very close, as shown by Black's instructions to the psychic Peter Hurkos. These included: go to Malaysia to investigate the case, if money is needed, Gen. Black would get it, and if troops were needed to rescue JT, Gen. Black would secure them. (Galleher, p. 82.)
- Elizabeth ("Lisa") Lyons. According to Galleher (p. 23), Lyons was in Bangkok during the time of
  JT's disappearance, and immediately after the disappearance she agreed to "stay in the [JT]
  house for a couple of weeks to organize the servants, who were confused and at loose ends

without Jim." Warren (p. 184) states that Lyons lived in the JT house/museum in Bangkok for at least three months after the disappearance, and "had a small dinner party" for a "few old friends" at about the three month mark. This party led to rumors that JT had returned. Letters in the Penn Museum in Philadelphia show that Lyons and JT were initially lovers and then become long-time friends. (Copies of all these letters are presented in the annexes.) She was an art expert and had worked for US DoS as an art curator. The fact that she was in Bangkok, was an art expert, and lived in the JT house full time after the disappearance raises the question of whether she might have had something to gain from Jim's absence – such as access to his art collection. Of course this is very speculative, but a modern police investigation would likely look into this. There is no mention in any records that have surfaced to date of any looting of the JT art collection after his disappearance. There is a list of items at the end of the Lyons letters annex which appears to be a statement of JT's possessions in his Bangkok house, done after his death. There is no mention there of missing items.

Movie stars, ambassadors, other diplomats, military leaders, major businessmen, Thai politicians, etc. Through his legendary entertaining, almost every night, at his fabulous house museum in Bangkok, JT knew virtually everyone important who came through Bangkok during the 1950s and 60s, and all the important people in town and in Thailand. These parties ranged from small dinner parties to large affairs with up to 120 attendees (JK, p. 120). Guests included Eleanor Roosevelt, Truman Capote, Barbara Hutton, Somerset Maugham, Benny Goodman, Henry Ford II, Sen. William Fulbright, Cecil Beaton, Doris Duke, Vice President Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson, Ethel Merman, Adlai Stephenson, Tennessee Williams, Katherine Hepburn, the Kennedys, the du Ponts, various Rockefellers, the Eisenhowers, Prince Michael of Greece, "nearly every prominent royal or heiress in Europe," etc., etc. (JK, pp. 3 and 131-135 and De Souza, p. 14). His Thai silk customers included Elizabeth Taylor, Princess Grace, Barbara Hutton, Lady Bird Johnson, the cast of the famous play about Thailand "The King and I," part of the cast of the movie "Ben Hur," the Queen of Thailand, and many others. (See Galleher, p. 26; and for "Ben Hur," Barbara Hutton and Lady Bird Johnson see the Lisa Lyons letters.)



Jim Thompson and his silk with Queen Sirikit of Thailand

#### Enemies, and Beneficiaries of the Subject's Death

#### Possible enemies of JT included:

- Khun ("Honorable") Dhanit Yupo, the Director-General of the Fine Arts Department of the Royal Thai Government. Galleher (p. 188) quotes the "former station chief of the CIA in Bangkok" whom she interviewed in Hawaii after he retired, as saying that, "I never saw Jim as mad as he was over those [three Buddha] heads" taken from Thompson by the Director, claiming that they were stolen. She also states that eventually the Director agreed to give the heads back to Thompson, but never did, making JT even madder. The two were clearly enemies. It appears very likely that it was this Director who placed a truly vicious article in a Thai paper, almost a year after JT's disappearance, stating that JT was a key culprit in looting and even destroying Thai artifacts. (See the Lisa Lyons annex.) The article stated that "there are many foreigners who are destroying Buddha images and antiques, and among them was Jim Thompson, the Thai silk king who disappeared in Malaysia."
- The Thai intelligence and police services and their political allies. JT upset the Thai authorities with his support of Pridi Phanomyong, the former, deposed Prime Minister of Thailand. Three very close friends of JT, also supporters of Pridi, were murdered in 1949 by Thai police under orders of Field Marshal Sarit Thanarat ("Marshal Sarit"), and this shocked JT and further soured his relations with Thai authorities. (Galleher, p. 39) Thai police continually tailed JT in 1953 (Galleher, p. 26) apparently to see if JT had any contact with Pridi. JK (pp. 191-193) quotes various named and un-named CIA and FBI sources, many of whom concluded that JT's hostility toward the war in Vietnam, his business rivalry with the wife of Marshal Sarit, and his intense dislike of Marshal Sarit and his faction, "might have put him [JT] in danger with senior Thai officials," and these officials supposedly knew what really happened to JT. (Note however the quite contrary view of a redacted FBI informant from Thailand (FBI memo of 3 May 1967, see Annex) who had worked for US AID in Thailand, worked in JT's company for three years, and knew JT socially through November 1966. This source stated that JT "was definitely in the good graces of the Thai Government as of November, 1966.")
- One possible indirect beneficiary of JT's disappearance was the wife of the Thai Army chief, Field Marshal Sarit, one-time Prime Minister of Thailand (who had died in December 1963). According to JK, p. 153, she was a "vile...ruthless" competitor of JT, who had set up a large factory of 150 looms for making Thai silk, and tried to "poach JT's weavers" and "would take any chance to crush" JT. Reading between the lines, JK seems to think that Madam Sarit and her clique were responsible for JT's disappearance and death. This lady may be the only possible enemy identified by JT's brother Henry B. Thompson in his interview with the FBI, in which he stated that "perhaps the owner of the Star of Siam...silk dress manufacturer" was an enemy, since this this company "was very interested in expanding and acquiring [JT's] company, perhaps by devious means." (FBI report of 4 May 1967 on the interview of 2 May 1967; see FBI annex.)

• Thieves related to the Thai Silk Company. According to Galleher (pp. 38 and 64), there were three major thefts connected to the Company. First was a theft of \$20,000 USD ("a huge amount" at that time (Horgan interview)); unfortunately Galleher does not make it really clear when this happened. She does state that this theft had still not been cleared up by February 1968, when it was still being looked into by company manager Charles Sheffield. A suspect in this case was Nath, a company employee (Galleher, p. 68), who was exonerated. (Nath's wife, a doctor, gave periodic B-12 shots to JT.)

Second was a theft of about "400,000 ticals' worth of silk" that disappeared from the factory in 1964 (Galleher, p. 56). According to a 31 May 1964 JT letter to Lisa Lyons in the Penn Museum, this theft was investigated and all evidence (including suspicious bank accounts and setting up of a rival silk company) pointed to "Nath," who was then confronted at a Director's meeting, and the Directors voted 5 to 1 that Nath was guilty. However, in the same letter JT seems to change his mind, and feels that Nath was possibly innocent. Nath was a long-time, trusted employee and friend of JT. (It thus seems possible that Galleher was confused, and perhaps what she thought of as two separate thefts, were in fact one incident involving Nath. Or perhaps he was involved in two incidents? This is not clear.)

Warren (p. 124) states that JT "had been able to accept the discovery that two of his most trusted employees were systematically robbing the silk company, but could not, for reasons of face, be prosecuted."

The third (or second) theft was "padding of bills to the Company by a member of the staff of the Thai Royal Family" (Galleher, p. 134) for deliveries of Thai silk products. This apparently was actually a theft from the Royal Family rather than from the Company, but if the theft was exposed, then a huge scandal would have erupted, and severe penalties would have been imposed on the culprits. Thus a possible motive for murder might exist. This incident occurred "shortly before Jim's disappearance" (ibid.).

- Mr. Charles U. Sheffield, JT's top assistant, took over from JT as Managing Director of the Thai Silk Company. A native of Texas, he always maintained that JT had an accident in the jungle.
   (De Souza, p. 114.) Sheffield was in Bangkok at the time of the disappearance (JK, p. 185) but this is not complete proof of innocence, since assassins could reportedly be hired in Bangkok at quite a reasonable price. (!)
- JT reportedly had as a lover Irena Yost, the glamorous Polish wife of diplomat Charles Yost, who eventually became Ambassador from the US to the United Nations. (JK, pp. 61-2) JK states that this affair was "intense," "went on for years," was publicly flaunted with trips together to resorts, and Charles must have found out about it. JK states (ibid.) that JT wanted desperately to marry Irena but she turned down his numerous proposals. Unfortunately JK does not say when this affair ended. Wikipedia states that Charles Yost served as charge d'affairs in Bangkok

for only part of 1946, and did not return to the region until 1954-6, as Minister and then Ambassador to Laos. In early 1967 he was a consultant to the State Department; it is not clear if he was stationed in Washington DC. Hence Charles Yost was perhaps an enemy of JT, and a possible but unlikely (and very distinguished!) POI.

It seems likely that Irena is the woman described by Warren (p. 114) as "a married foreign woman" with whom JT had a "more or less open relationship" and whose "husband appeared to accept the situation." This relationship went on "from the late fifties until he disappeared," and she would likely have divorced her husband and married JT if he had asked, but "he never did." She would come for long stays at JT's house museum and served as "Thompson's hostess at dinner parties."





Irena Oldakowska Yost

**Charles Yost** 

- JT's ex-wife, Patricia Maury Thraves, a "usual suspect," was very ill in San Francisco around the
  time of the disappearance. According to a letter received by Galleher (p. 79) on March 12, 1967
  from JT (shortly before the disappearance), JT's ex-wife was "paralyzed and in a coma from a
  brain hemorrhage with almost no chance to live" and JT stated he was so upset that he "didn't
  know whether I am coming or going."
- As mentioned above, Elizabeth (Lisa) Lyons was JT's former lover and current friend (or intermittent lover?) when he disappeared, was in Bangkok at the time of or immediately after the disappearance (her location on the exact date of the disappearance is not clear), and stayed in his house for about three months immediately after the disappearance. She was an art expert. There is no evidence of looting of the collection, or any evidence suggesting a breakdown in their friendly relationship, so as a suspect or POI she would seem to be possible but highly unlikely.



Sketch from a letter written by Jim Thompson to Lisa Lyons

It seems likely that Lyons is the woman described by Warren (p. 114) as the woman that JT "regularly saw on trips to America" and who "possibly entertained … hopes of marriage" to JT, but he never asked for her hand. The Lyons correspondence (see annex) supports this conclusion.

## The Will(s) of the Subject

The will of JT was mysterious, like everything about this case. His first will (in Thailand) left almost all his assets in Thailand to the Siam Society (a well-respected and quasi-official society under royal patronage which researches and protects the heritage of Thailand), which would administer the JT house(s) as a museum. JT revoked this will in March 1964 (see annexes, with original State Department memo and a signed JT letter explaining the revocation), due to a major dispute with the Director of the Thai Government's Fine Arts Department, who had seized three Thai Buddha heads from JT, claiming they were stolen. JT was "never so angry" as when this incident occurred (Galleher, p. 188). JT revoked the first will, and several years later created a second will, to leave everything to his nephew (he had no children), Henry Thompson III, a New York stockbroker (Galleher, p. 199; Warren, p. 201).



One of the heads seized from JT by the Thai Fine Arts Department, now in the National Museum

The second will was stored in the Thai Silk Company safe, with copies given to JT's Thai lawyer, to Charles Kirkwood (a lawyer), to a lawyer in America, and to the US Embassy in Bangkok (Galleher, p. 161). But according to Galleher (ibid.), none of these copies were ever found, and the original second will only resurfaced on 23 March 1969, two years after the disappearance, when Charles Sheffield, manager of the Company, found it erroneously "rolled in blueprints in the company safe." Galleher found this "suspicious" (ibid.).

Warren (p. 201) has a somewhat different and probably more reliable version of the story of the second will. He states that JT (after the dispute with the Thai government over the Buddha heads) removed his first will from his local "amphur" (a sort of local police station, where wills are stored in Thailand), and remained without a will for several years. He then took the original will, and copied it over, substituting his nephew Henry Thompson III for the Siam Society in the relevant places, as sole beneficiary of JT's possessions in Thailand, other than a few minor bequests to servants. These possessions included JT's stock in the Thai Silk Company, his house/museum and its land, and his extensive art collection. This second will was witnessed by Charles Sheffield and two Thai employees of the Thai Silk Company. However, JT apparently failed to file this revised will with the local amphur, and there was no copy or original there, and no entry in the logbook indicating it had been received. (Note, by the way, that there were apparently no bequests of Thai property to lovers, other relatives or even friends.)

During the two year hiatus between the disappearance of JT and the re-appearance of the second will, it appeared that the Thompson family might have to sue the Siam Society over the Thai portion of the estate, since it was well known via Sheffield and the witnesses that the will had been changed and a second version existed, and an original letter from JT existed, which stated that he had revoked his first will.

But the main heir of JW, his nephew and stockbroker Henry Thompson III of New York, visited Thailand, and had a social and official meeting with the Siam Society. (See the State Department memos in the

annexes.) The two parties agreed to avoid litigation, to set up a committee to run the house museum and estate until the seven year period required by Thai law expired and JT was declared dead, and to create a separate foundation to honor JT.

Eventually, after the second will was found, the James Thompson Foundation was created to run the house museum, and that remains the situation to this day. The Jim Thompson House is now one of the top five tourist attractions in Bangkok.

Note that in all this it appears that the nephew, the heir under the second will, was quite uninterested in liquidating the estate and realizing its assets, and in fact appears to have wanted a separate entity to honor JT, and to retain JT's art collection in Thailand as part of the museum. Thus his motive for somehow causing the disappearance is greatly diminished. (See Warren, pp. 202-3 on this point.) And this nephew, Henry Thompson III, was resident in the United States, quite remote from Bangkok in those days, and heard about his uncle's disappearance on the Dow Jones ticker tape at his brokerage firm in New York (JK, p. 185, and JT estate administration papers). Thus it seems extremely unlikely that he is a viable POI or suspect.

It should be also noted that Warren's account of the will only refers to the <u>Thai</u> portion of JT's fortune. According to a newspaper account (clip file of O. Wells Foster, annex), the residual value of JT's fortune in the USA was \$1.1 million, a very substantial sum, and this was to be distributed to JT's eight nephews and nieces. However, according to the estate administration papers from Delaware, the value of the JT estate in the US in 1974 (seven years after the disappearance), was much less, only about \$139,000 USD. This contradiction is unresolved.

## **Interests of the Subject**

- JT had a "very adventurous nature and was very interested in wild plants," according to Dr. Ling (Straits Times, 29 March 1967; see press clippings annex below).
- JT was "adventurous, and, sometimes without thought, would leave the beaten path if he spotted some orchid or other interesting object. To do that in the Cameron jungle could lead to all kinds of complications. There are sheer drops, deep ravines, and matted undergrowth..."
  (Letter of April 29, 1967 from Rita Ammundsen (wife of JT's doctor and friend) to Martha Galleher (Galleher, pp. 21-22)).
- JT was interested in and keen on hiking, and "especially enjoyed rough terrain" (Warren, p. 224).
- JT seemed to delight in getting lost in the jungle he was "elated" that he and Dr. Ling got lost in the jungle for several hours on the day before the disappearance, even though Dr. Ling was shaken and pulled a ligament (De Souza, p. 22).
- Capt. Rivers' account of this same incident was that Jim led Dr. Ling on an attempt to walk cross country from the MB to the golf course in the valley below, which is in sight from the south edge of the MB compound and in a direct line is only 0.77 km or about a half a mile. Presumably this adventure led south, from the tongue of grassy land in front of the Bungalow. This attempt lasted several hours, due to the overgrown and broken nature of the country, and ultimately led to the two getting lost and never making it to the golf course. (Rivers ms., p. 7.)

- JT was interested in hunting and reportedly skilled in survival techniques (JK, p. 30).
- However, on the last item, consider the following. General Sir Peter de la Billiere, who spent many years in the SAS, eventually commanding the elite (British) 22<sup>nd</sup> SAS Regiment, and who fought in the Malay Emergency in 1956, makes these points about jungle survival and fighting in peninsular Malaysia: "Navigation in the jungle was an art which could be mastered only by experience....Gradually, by trial and error, we acquired a feel for the country." Even though de la Billiere had already studied jungle warfare and survival as an SAS recruit and young soldier, it was only under the intense tutelage of a very experienced mentor, Corporal Ip Kwong Lao (who during WW II had walked all the way from Hong Kong to Burma to escape the Japanese and join British forces), that de la Billiere gradually became comfortable in the jungle and "grasped the rudiments" of "jungle existence." (Looking for Trouble: SAS to Gulf Command (London: HarperCollins, 1994) pp. 106-111.) Thus JT's knowledge of jungle survival may be considered to be more than the average person, but was not at the expert level and was 22 years in the past.
- JT was an "expert in bantam chickens" (Warren, p. 35) and loved "fox hunting, beagling and crew" (OSS/CIA FOIA), and Basset hounds and ballet (Warren, p. 37). Also he doted on his pet cockatoo, "Cockey." (Galleher, p. 65)

#### State of Mind of the Subject

According to various sources, JT's state of mind around the time of the incident was quite negative and can be described as follows:

- Was "tired and freely admitted it" (Warren, p. 21).
- "His mind was in turmoil, he was not well, and he was sleeping badly" (JK, p. 149).
- Had a "rare but explosive temper" (JK, p. 150).
- Suffered "bouts of depression" (JK, p. 150).
- Was "forgetful" JT failed to get the compulsory cholera injection prior to going to Malaysia, and failed to get a clearance certificate showing he had no outstanding tax payments before leaving Thailand (De Souza, p. 40).
- Was "really a lonely man," with few real friends despite his many parties and acquaintances, according to his nephew, Henry Thompson (JK, p. 135). (Recall that his second Thai will had no bequests to friends or lovers, only a few to servants.)

Despite having a negative state of mind, JT had an important business appointment in Singapore on the day after the disappearance, and social engagements there, and seemed to be planning to continue life as usual. Most analysts including his doctor, friend and confident Dr. Einner Ammundsen discounted suicide (see *Straits Times* piece in the annexes) but it remains a possibility.

JT may not have been suicidal, but he does seem to have been distracted and prone to making the same "cascade of errors" that often leads to plane crashes due to pilot error. Consider that he did not make proper arrangements for his trip, got lost the day before the disappearance, did not take any of his usual possessions or medicines with him, did not take any survival gear or clothing with him, did not tell anyone his direction or destination of travel, did not state his time of return, and did not take a buddy.

That is at least seven major blunders in just 2-3 days, the mark of a distracted and perhaps arrogant person headed for a fall.

## Subject's Knowledge of the Terrain

JT visited the CH on three occasions (Warren, pp. 128-9), as follows (Galleher, p. 20):

- Visited the Lings at the MB in 1962 over Easter for the weekend; went on a solo hike and stumbled into a wild hornet's nest, and only escaped by dashing down a very steep slope into a stream. (Warren, pp. 20-21.) The hornet's nest location is where the Strawberry Park Resort lower parking lot is now situated, and the stream is below the eastern edge of the parking lot. (Rivers interview.) (Lat/longs and a map are provided later.)
- 2. Visited the Lings again at the MB in 1966 again over Easter weekend; this was one year before the disappearance (Rivers ms., p. 8). Revisited the hornet's nest area. According to Captain Rivers, this is because JT liked the view from there. (Rivers interview.) Perhaps importantly, JT stated on this second visit that he would like to visit the hornet's nest area again in the future.
- 3. Visited the Lings for the third and last time at the MB in 1967 over the Easter Weekend.

Thus JT had only about 6-8 days of experience in the CH. Although he apparently hiked each time, he did not have a good knowledge of the local trails, hills and ravines, although he would have been aware of the difficult nature of the terrain. He had been lost in the CH just the day before the disappearance, on a cross country hiking attempt from the MB to the golf course in the valley below.

# Images of Various Persons Known to the Subject or Related to the Case



Pridi, ex-PM of Thailand, friend of JT



Mrs. Helen Ling Jim's long-time friend

(Source: De Souza, p. 69)



(Source: De Souza, p. 69)



Connie Mengustu, friend of JT



Brig. Gen. Edwin Black, friend of JT



Richard Noone, searched for JT



Katharine Thompson Wood, murdered sister of JT



Patricia Maury Thraves, wife of JT



Son of Katharine T. Wood, possible POI in her murder (see interviews)

#### **Signature Analysis of the Subject**

Signature analysis or "graphology" has its supporters, but has many critics and has been called by some a "pseudo-science" with no credible scientific basis. Hence it may have no place in this report. However, it may be of some mild interest that there are various JT signatures in the annexes of this report, and according to http://atozhandwriting.com/signature-analysis/, these signatures seem to show the following characteristics:

- Size of signature: JT's signature is rather large, and larger than the nearby date in one instance, thus supposedly showing that the writer "has a pretense of higher self-esteem and confidence than is the case."
- Writing out the full name: JT signed his name in each instance as "James H.W. Thompson," so
  this might be interpreted to be writing his entire name, which would indicate an "informal,
  relaxed approach to life."
- Legibility: JT's last name when signed is generally less legible than his first, which supposedly shows that he was "a more approachable, direct person who would make a great effort to be friendly."

Unfortunately, none of this, even if scientific, would seem to be helpful in assessing, say, JT's attitude toward risk-taking or his general state of mind. Hence it would seem wise to return to more fact-based items, such as the situation in the CH at the time of the disappearance.

## Situation in the Cameron Highlands in 1967

The village of Tanah Rata in the Cameron Highlands at the time of the JT disappearance was, in Denis Horgan's words (interview): "a collection of cottages and fashionable homes, not at all a community or town, so the number of local officials to draw upon was small." He said that "to call it a resort overstates it." It was a very small and quiet area in the cool hills, with a number of bungalows reserved for British military officers and other officials, or owned by businessmen. The immediate area was calm and not known for kidnappings, major crimes, or CT activities (Cikgo interview). However, it should be noted that just 90 miles away, on the Thai/Malaysia border, a number of recent CT attacks during this period had resulted in deaths of policemen (see *Straits Times*, Monday, April 3, 1967 article in the annexes).

It should also be noted that William Warren in his *New York Times* article a year after the disappearance (see the annexes) states without citing a source that gangs did kidnap Chinese businessmen in the CH in this period.

Furthermore, a declassified memo in August 1967 to the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the US Department of State states that the situation on the Thai-Malaysian border "was becoming critical" and the Communists "are telling the Thais and they [the CTs] want to go south, not north" (Edward C. Keefer, editor, *Foreign Relations of the United States, 1964-1968, Vol. XXVII, Mainland Southeast Asia; Regional Affairs* (Washington, DC: US GPO, 2000), p. 781.)

Similarly, an official, confidential, internal analysis of news coverage put out by the US Embassy in Kuala Lumpur on June 29, 1967 quotes major papers as saying that "the situation on the Thai-Malaysian border...remains serious until the terrorists are wiped out...." (US Department of State confidential Airgram no. A-623, US National Archives II, RG 59, General Records of the US DoS, Box 2321; shown in the annexes).

Thus there were armed, hostile CTs on the Thai/Malaysian border, 90 miles away from the MB, in 1967, who could perhaps have planned and executed the kidnapping of JT. This does not seem to be their modus operandi, and it would seem very likely that they would claim credit and/or send in a ransom note. But it remains an unlikely possibility.

## Timeline Before the Search, and the LKP

• JT left Bangkok for Penang by plane in the morning of Thursday, March 23, 1967 with Connie Mangskau (Galleher, pp. 12-13, citing Charles Sheffield letter to her of April 6, 1967; hereinafter called "Sheffield letter"). JT forgot to get the correct cholera shot and financial departure papers, but Connie straightened this out at the airport. (De Souza, p. 40) They were planning to spend Easter in the CH, then JT, Connie and Dr. and Mrs. Ling would drive down to Singapore early on Monday, to allow Jim to work with Edward Pollitz, an American businessman, for the Economic Development Board on a batik project. (Pollitz supposedly spotted JT in Tahiti after the disappearance.)

- On Monday evening, JT planned to attend a dinner in Singapore in his honor, given by the American Ambassador, and had sent a cable confirming this engagement. He had also confirmed a Tuesday dinner engagement in Singapore, and planned to return to Bangkok on Wednesday. (Sheffield letter)
- The two friends (JT and Connie) spent the afternoon and night of the Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> in Penang (ibid.).
- On the morning of Friday, March 24, the two rented a car with driver for the trip to the Cameron Highlands (ibid.). They changed to a different vehicle and driver at the foot of the CH hills, and refused to get into a taxi that already had two Chinese people in it. (De Souza, p. 41) (This was considered suspicious by some later analysts, who thought this might have been a botched kidnapping attempt. But Capt. Rivers states that this incident was carefully researched by police, who concluded that this was the normal procedure, since Penang drivers did not like to go up the very twisty roads into the hills. See Rivers' manuscript in his interview, in the annexes.)
- JT and Connie arrived at the MB in the CH on about Friday afternoon, and greeted their hosts, Dr. T.G. and Mrs. Ling. (Sheffield letter)
- On Saturday, March 25, the group of four friends walked, worked in the garden, and spent a quiet day (Sheffield letter). According to author JK, "JT and Dr. Ling hiked in the jungle and got lost, but Jim found a stream and got them back to safety" (JK, p. 184, citing a 2007 interview with Joanna Cross). JT reportedly enjoyed being lost, and found it exhilarating, although Dr. Ling was "slightly shaken" and pulled a ligament (Warren, p. 26, De Souza, p. 22). De Souza also quotes JT as saying to Dr. Ling, when they got lost, "Don't worry, follow me along this stream and we'll get out." (Ibid.) (If this quote (no source given by De Souza) is true, it could be significant, since many lost hikers think that following a stream will always lead them to civilization. But in fact, in many terrains, this is not true, and streams lead further into the wilderness. This could have been the case in the Cameron Highlands, where the MB is only half a mile south of a sort of "continental divide" border with the next province. North of that border are many drainages and streams which lead away from Tanah Rata, away from civilization, and into a thick wilderness. General Black, who knew JT, was of the opinion that JT would follow a stream to try to find a village. (De Souza, p. 43)) Thus this could have been a fatal mistake.)
- On the day of the disappearance (Sunday, March 26), JT attended church in the morning with Mr. and Mrs. Ling and Connie Mangskau (JK, p. 184). The church was the All Souls [Anglican] Church in Tanah Rata (De Souza, p. 22), on the south side of the golf course in town. They then went on a picnic, but JT "cut the meal short" and "apparently wanted to get back to the cottage as quickly as possible, an unusual rudeness for a man known for his elaborate courtesy" (JK, p. 184, citing a 1987 article by Mark Jenkins). The picnic was at Gunong Brinchang, one of the highest mountains in the CH (at 6663 feet or 2031 meters), northwest of the MB (Rivers ms., p. 4). The lat/long for this peak is 04.517500, 101.382500, and it is 1.82 miles or 2.93 km NNE of the MB in a direct line, but much further by car or foot. (This mountain is on the "continental"

- divide" referred to earlier.) De Souza (p. 23) states that JT initially tried to cancel the picnic, but finally was persuaded. During the picnic, he "was not his usual self."
- Mrs. Ling stated that early on Sunday morning, JT "insisted on walking down to church," on the far side of the golf course, even though the Lings drove, and that JT appeared quite tired upon arrival. (Galleher, p. 120)
- Upon returning to the MB from the picnic, all the friends except Jim decided to nap. (Sheffield letter) The departure from the picnic site was at about 1:20 pm, with arrival at Moonlight Bungalow and decision to nap at about 2:30 pm. (Warren, p.28, De Souza, p. 23) This time and location about 2:30 pm local time on Sunday, March 26, 1967 at the Moonlight Bungalow -- is the Initial Planning Point (IPP) and also the Last Known Point (LKP), meaning the last point where it is certain when and where JT was located alive.
- Although all parties including JT were expecting to nap, in fact JT's bed was "not turned down or even lain in." (Warren, p. 28)
- Helen Ling stated that, "I don't think Jim would have gone for a long walk [in the afternoon] while we were napping, because he had exercised considerably walking to church that morning." (Galleher, p. 140)
- Shortly after going to their bedrooms, the three friends heard JT pull an aluminum chair across the terrace, apparently to get into the sun. (Sheffield letter). Warren (p. 29) describes this as "placing an aluminum chair on the verandah."
- There then followed various slightly different accounts of footsteps:
  - According to the 27 April 1967 FBI report (annex) on the case, at about 3:00 pm someone was heard [clearly by the Lings] "walking down the gravel driveway from the back of the house in the direction of the road in the front of the house. Neither [Ling] looked out to see who was passing, but both assumed it was the victim, who had decided to go for a walk..."
  - Helen Ling stated (Warren, p. 132) that she "heard Thompson go out for a walk a little after three."
  - At about 3:30 pm, Dr. Ling thought he heard footsteps, apparently outside his window, pass by. (Rivers ms.) He thought it likely that this was JT going for a walk. Warren (p. 29) describes the Lings hearing "footsteps ... of a European, not Asian ... going down the gravel path leading to the road" and hearing no voices or other noises.
- At between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm (per Sheffield letter), 4:30 pm (per De Souza, p. 22) or at 5:00 pm (per Rivers' ms.) the three friends awoke and Jim was not there. The three assumed that JT was still on a walk, which he commonly did.
- At about 4:00 pm, JT was reportedly seen on the edge of the MB plateau, from the Lutheran Mission Bungalow, by a gardener. (Rivers' ms.) The two waved at each other, although they were 183 yards apart. (See the later section evaluating the credibility of all witnesses from this point on. In general, none of the witnesses are evaluated as being very credible.)
- Also at about 4:00 pm, JT was reportedly seen from a few yards away, in the garden of the same Lutheran Mission Bungalow, by a cook. (De Souza, p. 27) (The Lutheran Mission is south of the MB.)

- Also at about 4:00 pm on Sunday, JT was reportedly seen in the "hornet's nest" area, where the
  Strawberry Park Resort is now located, east of the MB. This sighting was by a servant, who saw
  JT from across a ravine; she was located at the Overseas Mission Fellowship (OMF) Bungalow.
  (De Souza, p. 27) (Recall that on his previous visit to the CH, JT had expressed an interest in
  going to this hornet's nest location again in the future.)
- A little later, at about 4:45 pm on Sunday, JT was reportedly seen by a different servant of the OMF, who was walking up the road to that Bungalow. She supposedly saw JT sitting beside the road on a large rock on the north side of the road, looking tired. (Capt. Rivers' ms.) Galleher (photo 28, after p. 106) states that JT was on the stone, "smoking a cigarette." (But he had left his cigarette pack behind Horgan suggests that JT might have had 1-2 cigarettes with him; see his interview.)
- At some unspecified time and place on Sunday, a servant reportedly saw JT or someone who
  looked like him, walking downhill (and south) toward the golf course, or on Trail 4, south of the
  golf course. (De Souza, p. 27 and pp. 132-3.) De Souza states that this was the "last" sighting,
  but provides no more details. (Trail 4 is shown later in this report on the Brinchang hotel 1963
  map.)
- By dusk on Sunday, "a little after 6 pm," the Lings became alarmed and started calling friends. (Sheffield letter) When this did not succeed, the Lings called the police (at about 7 pm, according to JK, p. 184). The Lings also called Jim's doctor, who happened to be vacationing in the CH. The doctor organized a hasty search, using local residents, school children, guests in hotels, and others. (Sheffield letter)
- According to Capt. Rivers, a small group of police arrived at the MB in short order after Dr. Ling's phone call. They began searching, starting with JT's room, and continuing on to the "hornet's nest" area, which was searched about 10 pm on Sunday night. Following that, the roads in the area were searched (apparently by moonlight and flashlight), for a possible hit and run accident. (Rivers' ms; in his interview in the annexes).
- The next day, Monday, March 27, 1967, a massive search began, using police, local residents, Boy Scouts, a large group of Malaysian Field Force soldiers from Ipoh, and others. (Sheffield letter, Kikgo interview). A day by day analysis of the rest of the search operations is provided in a later section. In summary, the main official search went on for about 11 days, but unofficial searches went on for weeks or even months. It was clearly the largest land search in Malaysian history. No trace or clue of any kind was ever found.

# Weather Conditions (WX)

- According to Cikgo (who participated in the search, see his interview), the weather on the day of the disappearance was "fine." He does not recall the WX on the previous or succeeding days.
- The website www.accuweather.com states that the "historical average" for WX data for March 26-31 for the CH is all 33 degrees C (92 F) for the highs and 23 C (73F) for the lows. This seems quite high, and may be incorrect, perhaps reflecting Ipoh WX, at a much lower elevation.
- Wikipedia, citing De Souza, states that the temperature in the CH resort area rarely rises above 25C (77F) and can drop down, rarely, to 9C (48F) at night at higher elevations. (Even

- temperatures in the 50s could result in hypothermia in a person who was injured, wet or dressed inappropriately.)
- Warren (p. 133) states that temperatures at night in the CH around the period of the disappearance "drop into the forties" (F).
- The website www.bbc.com states that the CH weather in March averages 23 C (73 F) for the high and 13 C (55 F) for the low, with a recorded maximum low of 6 C (43 F). Average monthly precipitation for that month is 216 mm.
- Horgan (interview) recalls that the weather was fine and pleasant in the CH for about five days
  after the disappearance, although locals were concerned that at night it might be cold enough
  to cause problems for JT if he was still alive. Horgan notes that the pleasantly cool weather
  during the day in the CH was and is the main reason that people went there, since it is a
  welcome contrast to the sweltering coast.
- A review of the Malaysian Meterological Department website (www.met.gov.my) did not reveal any weather archives older than 2007.

#### **Date and Time Information**

JT disappeared on Easter Sunday, March 26, 1967. According to the website www.world-timedate.com, relevant information for Ipoh, Malaysia (the nearest location in the website database) for that date was as follows:

Sunrise: 06:47:44 AM local time

Sunset: 18:55:36 PM

• Day Duration: 12 hours, 7 minutes, 52 seconds

• Day Difference: plus 15 seconds (i.e. length of day increased 15 seconds over the previous day)

Solar Noon Time: 12:51:41 PM

• Solar Noon Elevation: 87.33 degrees

• Civil twilight started: 06:26:59

- Civil twilight ended: 19:16:22 (when the geometric center of the sun was 6 degrees below the
  horizon, and when there was an end to the period in which illumination is sufficient, under clear
  weather conditions, for terrestrial objects to be clearly distinguished. In some countries car
  headlights must be lit at this point, and pilots with restricted licenses must ground their planes)
- Nautical twilight started: 06:02:52
- Nautical twilight ended: 19:40:28 (detailed ground operations were not possible after this time; although shapes could be distinguished)
- Astronomical twilight started: 05:38:48
- Astronomical twilight ended: 20:04:36 (casual observers feel that full darkness is in place, and can see even the faintest stars if in a rural setting)

Over the next three weeks, during the search period, the length of day increased slightly, so that by 15 April 1967 the sunrise was at 06:39:31 and sunset at 18:52:27, and the day duration was 12 hours, 12 minutes and 56 seconds.

The mountainous and hilly terrain would have influenced the perceived times of sunrise and sunset in the CH. Galleher (p. 13) states that dusk came a little after 6 pm on Sunday, the day of the disappearance, at the Moonlight Bungalow.

According to the same website "world-timedate.com," the moon phase on March 26, 1967 at Ipoh was a full moon, waning to a last quarter moon by April 2 and to a new moon (dark) by April 10. Moonrise on March 26 was at 19:16:01 PM and moonset was at 07:38:10 AM the next morning. The moonrise azimuth was 92.06 degrees and sunset was 264.41 degrees.

All of this information is relevant and of interest, because it would have affected Thompson in his decision on when to leave the MB, how long to plan to be gone, and thus his destination. Thus for example if JT did not leave the MB until 4 pm on his walk, he would likely have known that local sunset and darkness was only 2-3 hours away. But he might also have noticed (the day before) that the moon was full and up by early evening, thus giving him more hiking time.

Also, the fact that the moon was full on the day of the disappearance makes it more likely that JT would (if alive) perhaps continued to walk in the jungle after nightfall, after moonrise in the early evening. (Lost hikers often do this.) This in turn would make it more likely that he might fall into a ravine, or trip over a root, and injure himself. Walking in the moonlight would also give him more time to wander beyond the reasonable, actual search area.

This information would also affect the lighting and time available to searchers after the disappearance, thus giving a maximum time available for searching each day.

# Photo Evidence Regarding Conditions on the Ground in Malaysia

The photos below attempt to give the reader an idea of the conditions on the ground in Malaysia, in the CH, in 1967 and at present.



Photo from Malaysian clipping, showing original search efforts and mixed vegetation – open area with thick ground cover, and jungle in the background with low canopy. Note there is no triple canopy. Also note the thick, high ground cover in this photo. From story "Ghaib di Cameron Highlands," *Dimensi Ahad*, 25 Feb 2007, p. 11. (This photo was originally in the *Straits Times* in March 1967, and is the only photo of the search operations found to date. This photo might possibly have been staged, since it is quite difficult to get good shots of SAR operations.)



Naturalist Madi looks over the jungle on the "Jim Thompson Mystery Trail," near the MB. The "trail" is the faint, narrow brown track running from his feet up and to the right.



Photo showing typical current jungle ground conditions today in the CH. This picture was taken near the "JT boulder." Note the baseball cap on its side in lower left, which is on the verge of not being visible, even though it is only about three meters from the camera.



Cutaway view of jungle about 250 meters from the MB, facing NW. Note single canopy jungle with fairly thick vegetation at ground level. Also red clay soil and rather thin topsoil.



Modern building site about 200 meters from the MB, where a new road is being cut.

The road on the upper left leads to the MB.

Note the very heavy, muddy red clay, typical of the soil in the CH.

# Information on Local Terrain Conditions That Can Be Obtained from Other Sources

William Warren (pp. 230-1) quotes extensively from a book by F. Spencer Chapman, *The Jungle is Neutral,* which is about a stretch of jungle near the CH in Malaysia, with similar terrain and jungle. Chapman states that:

- "Navigation in thick mountainous jungle is the most difficult in the world," compared to the many types of terrain he had encountered in travels from Greenland to Australia
- "One hill is exactly like the other"
- "There are no landmarks" and "no way of judging distance"
- "It took us a week to realize we were traveling only one mile in eight hours, instead of the three to four we imagined"
- "We were continually forced off course by swamps, thickets, precipices, outcrops of rock, and rivers...thickets of bamboo, rattan, atap, scrub and thorn"
- There were "whole valleys full of huge granite boulders half covered with a treacherous layer of moss and roots, so a false step was liable to land us in the stream below."

#### Warren (p. 145) also says that:

One member of the local [Tanah Rata] police, in a statement that is sometimes forgotten, or ignored, by theorists discussing the case, said that "it would take a full regiment of men working for about a month" to truly cover the jungle around the resort, and even that would have been useless had he somehow wandered out of the immediate area. Considerably less than a regiment of trained men was involved even at the peak of the search, and their efforts were more sporadic than intensive after the first week.

Taking this "regiment" statement at face value, consider that a regiment in the British Army at this time usually consisted of two battalions ("home" and "away") of about 800 men each, and 1600 times 31 days is 49,600 person days. Compare this with the estimate below, that only about 1,448 person days of searching were actually delivered.

Warren also notes (p. 155) that the JT search was much more thorough than would have been done for an ordinary lost hiker, but that "it was not as thorough as many people later seemed to believe," and that the experienced trackers who reportedly got onto the case quickly, in fact took at least 24 hours to get organized.

The interview with Jim and Sandy McCarthy (annexes) shows that even modern experienced hikers can get quite lost in similar conditions to those described by Chapman, within 20-30 minutes of hiking into the jungle just west and northwest of Tanah Rata, in the main JT search area.

The Capt. Philip Rivers interview (annexes) shows that over the years, quite a few hikers have gotten lost and gone missing in the CH, due to poorly marked trails and difficult terrain. Most have eventually been found, although not all alive. (Note that a "trail" in the Cameron Highlands is <u>not</u> a paved, gravel or even dirt trail. Almost all "trails" look like infrequently used game trails, with thick leaf litter, no visible dirt to take tracks, and no linear depression in the soil.)

The Denis Horgan interview (annexes) shows that the terrain was difficult, "thick with trees and undergrowth," with "some open patches that would close up quickly as you went along," and "heavy vines and bush underfoot" with "uneven, rocky and tricky" footing.

Rita Ammundsen, wife of JT's friend and doctor, stated that "even my husband got lost in the CH jungle, looking for Jim" during the initial hasty search (Galleher, p. 136).

Paul Coakley, the head of JungleCraft (a.k.a. JungleCrafty), an expert in Malaysian jungle living and survival, has a number of videos on YouTube which cite the ease with which people can get lost in the jungle, the difficulties that even the orang asli (local aborigines) have in tracking lost victims in the jungle, and the fact that "all" the orang asli he knows, even the experts, have gotten lost in the jungle at least once. He himself states that he has been lost in the jungle, that this is "inevitable" if you spend time there, and that he "expects to be lost again. It's what you do next that matters." He recommends stopping to brew some tea (he is English, of course!), and then thinking carefully about what actions to take. (Citations for the location of his videos are provided below in the analysis matrix on causes.)

## **Sightings and Maps**

## Possible Credible Sightings Shortly After the LKP, with Evaluations

This section lists in table form the reported sightings of JT on Sunday afternoon. Lat/longs on Google Earth (GE) are given for each sighting (where possible), and all known details are provided and evaluated. This has never been done before in a systematic way by previous authors.

It must be noted that all witness sightings in any search are suspect and should be ranked below physical or other truly "hard" evidence in terms of reliability.

The lat/longs given below were taken with a Garmin Nuvi 40 car GPS. They should not be taken as definitive but rather indicative, since much more sophisticated GPS devices and numerous satellite readings are used in archaeological and other accurate studies. In placing these locations on Google Earth, minor adjustments were necessary, and this was done by examining the feature targeted (e.g., the front of the MB), and taking the exact lat/long of the feature from GE, not the GPS reading.

To enter these readings on Google Earth, take the two readings (the first is the latitude (north of the Equator), the second the longitude (east of Greenwich, England) and enter them in the GE search box like this: 04.49528, 101.37726. Make sure to include the comma, the space between the numbers, and do not use a plus or minus sign. It does not matter if you enter the number for latitude as 04 or 4. The readings considered most accurate and relevant are in **bold**.

NAME OF	WHEN	WITNESS	JT LOCATION	WHAT THE WITNESS	CONCLUSIONS RE
WITNESS		LOCATION	AND DISTANCE	REPORTED	RELIABILITY
			AWAY		
Dr. Tien Gi ("T.G.") Ling, owner of the MB	Sunday, "about 3:30 pm"	In his bedroom at the MB (east side of MB) LAT/LONG: 04.49280 101.37765 Adjustment after GE examination: 04.492663 101.377597 (This is the lat/long of the verandah on the front of the MB.)	Possibly passing by the door or window of the Ling bedroom LAT/LONG: 04.49280 101.37765 (Distance from JT to the witness: a few meters)  Per GE: 04.492663 101.377597	Ling heard footsteps "pass by my bedroom door [inside the MB] at about 3:30 pm" and assumed it was JT going for a stroll (De Souza, p.23; Rivers ms. p. 2). Capt. Mohammad recalls that the statement was that the footsteps were <b>outside</b> the MB, heard through the window. Galleher (p. 3) states she interviewed the Lings and that "between 3 and 4 o'clock" the "Lings heard pebbles crunch outside their bedroom window," and assumed JT was "going for another short walk."	Dr. Ling himself implies that he is not certain that the footsteps were JT. It is also not completely clear if the footsteps were inside or outside, although likely outside. If outside, that might imply JT was heading for the "kitchen trail," since to go down the access road or down the (possible) eastern steep trail would not have required walking past the Ling's window. Conclusion: Low-moderate reliabilty
Mohammad, a "gardener at the MB" (De Souza, p. 104)	Unclear, but when JT was departing on his Sunday afternoon walk	Somewhere at the MB, but it is not clear where exactly, except "at the barrier area." Hence	Apparently very close, since Mohamad was able to see JT and what he was carrying. Hence approx.: 04.492663 101.377597	Mohammad supposedly saw JT  "approaching the barrier area of the  MB, and saw JT light up a cigarette"  (De Souza, p. 104).	No other source mentions this sighting. The sighting is not documented as to source of information. There is no real "barrier."

		perhaps approx. at: 04.492663 101.377597			Conclusion: Low reliability
Mr. Subramanian, gardener at the Lutheran Mission bungalow	Sunday, at "about 4:00 pm"	Lutheran Mission Bungalow (SSW of the MB) LAT/LONG: 04.49114 101.37679	At the southern part of the MB plateau area, facing SSW. GPS LAT/LONG: 04.49250 101.37760 However, examination on GE shows better L/L: 4.492498 101.377674 Distance between the two locations: about 599 feet, or 183 meters	The gardener looked up at the MB and saw a "masala," a European man, on the edge of the MB plateau. He waved and the masala waved. The gardener believes this person looked like JT. (See Capt. Mohammad interview.)	At 599 feet apart, the distance between these two points is too far to be very credible. (See discussion of distance research, below.)  Conclusion: Low reliability
Che Fatimah binte Mohamed Yeh ("Fatimah")	Sunday, "about 4 pm"	Lutheran Mission Bungalow, south of the MB LAT/LONG: 04.49114 101.37679	In the garden of the Lutheran Mission Bungalow LAT/LONG: 04.49114 101.37679	Fatimah was 24 and a cook at the Lutheran Mission bungalow. She said: I was in the kitchen, saw Jim Thompson come up the road, wearing a long sleeved white shirt and gray slacks, he looked at the garden and plants, did not speak to anyone, then left and headed back from where he came. (De Souza, p. 27.) (Also Straits Times, 30 March 1967, see press stories section below.). Fatimah was certain she saw JT, after seeing a photo of JT. (Straits Times, ibid.) De Souza states (p. 114) that Fatimah also reported that JT as he walked away stopped and talked briefly to someone in a white car which then drove away. Capt. Rivers stated he knew Fatimah personally and found her not credible. Fatimah died in 2009 and cannot be cross-examined.	Fatimah was probably only 10-20 meters from JT when she reportedly saw him. Thus distance should not be much of a factor. However, she is rated poorly by Capt. Rivers, a former Singapore police officer, and he states in his ms that the police "discounted" her testimony at the time. And she could be motivated by publicity seeking. However, De Souza (p. 114) rates her as "the most credible" witness. Conclusion: Low reliability
OMF Female Servant #1	Sunday, about 4:15 pm (Capt. Rivers ms.)	Overseas Mission Fellowship (OMF) bungalow, in rear yard, on west side, facing NW. LAT/LONG: 04.49261 101.38157 (both Strawberry Farm Resort and MB can be seen from this promontory)	On a plateau opposite the OMF; where the "hornet's nest" was located (De Souza, p. 27; Rivers ms., p. 4) and where the Strawberry Park Resort lower parking lot is now. East end of parking lot, looking east. LAT/LONG: 04.49449 101.38029 However, note: when examining GE, the better GE location at E end of lower parking lot is: 4.494354 101.380427	This unnamed servant reportedly saw JT across the ravine between the OMF and hornet's nest area.  Galleher (p. 17) states this witness came forward on March 30, close to the disappearance date (adding to her credibility). Galleher says the "servant reported seeing a man who looked like Thompson on top of a nearby plateau[who was there] for half an hour, then suddenly vanished." Galleher says that "reporters suggested that JT might have jumped."  The distance between the two locations is about 763 feet, or 234 meters, as measured on Google Earth (using the second, more accurate GE location for the east end of the Strawberry Park lower parking lot).	Capt. Rivers states that this sighting was given credence by the police at the time, and served as a basis for a substantial part of their searching. Unfortunately, there is no background on the witness, no police report, and not even a name.  Conclusion: Low Reliability

			Distance apart: 763	This very large distance casts doubt on	
			•		
OMF Female Servant #2	About 4:45 pm Sunday (Rivers ms.)  Or 4:30 pm on Sunday (Galleher, p. 148)	Pushing a bicycle up the road, beside a large stone beside road below OMF bungalow. LAT/LONG: 04.49340 101.38094 (However, see box to right)	ft. or 234 meters Sitting on a large stone on the N side of the road.  LAT/LONG of the stone: 04.49340 101.38094  However: note that the car GPS location when entered on GE is not on the road. A better estimated GE location is: 4.493340 101.380977	This unnamed servant reportedly saw JT sitting on a large stone beside the road, "looking tired."  The distance between JT and the witness would have been just a few meters. Thus distance should not be a factor.  Capt. Rivers (his ms, p. 8) states that this report has been virtually overlooked in the press.  Galleher (p. 126) states that Malaysian police chief Santohk stated that he "interviewed a servant girl from the mission house who identified a picture of Jim. She passed him sitting on a rock a half a mile down from the Ling's."  Galleher, in the photo section after p. 106, under photo 28, states that JT was sitting on a rock beside the road, "smoking a cigarette, when he greeted the Mission girl." But he had supposedly left his cigarettes behind! A contemporary photo by Galleher of this stone and location are provided in this report (see below and annex). Galleher, p. 129, also states she interviewed the servant girl and apparently found her credible.  The stone exists today, despite the road being widened, and is on the north side of the road.	Capt. Rivers states that this sighting was given credence by the police at the time, and served as a basis for a substantial part of their searching.  Unfortunately, there is no name or background, or interview notes. There is also confusion about the "cigarette" aspect.  Conclusion:  Moderate reliability.
Male witness, employee of Eastern Hotel (now Century Pines Hotel) in Tanah Rata.	Sunday, but time is not clear	Not clear. De Souza (pp. 132-3) seems to imply that the witness was somewhere on Path 4, which runs from the Forestry Dept. just SE of the Golf Course, south to the Parit Waterfall, and then further south to the Century Pines Hotel. (See the tourist map in the Annex.)	Not clear.	Witness reportedly saw JT heading toward a track leading to the golf course (De Souza, p. 86). But on p. 132-3, it appears the witness may be somewhere else.  Since JT apparently was headed for the golf course on the previous day when he got lost, perhaps he decided to go there on Sunday. The rough center of the golf course on GE is at: 04.485532, 101.380855	Total lack of information on the location of this witness, time, name, etc. De Souza (p. 133) states that the police did not take this testimony seriously, since the description given by the witness did not match well with JT.  Conclusion: Low reliability.
Not available	Late afternoon on	Not available	Approx. location of JT supposedly being hit by truck, at	No witness except the alleged Chinese truck driver, who perpetrated manslaughter and hit and run.	Alleged witness and perpetrator is dead and cannot be cross

	Sunday?		curve in road, east	Location derived from discussions with	examined. Link to
			of large stone on	Capt. Rivers, Capt. Rivers' ms., detailed	"bones of JT" is very
			which JT sat, from	observation on the ground, car GPS,	tenuous, and bones
			car GPS:	and examination of GE satellite and	may well not be JT.
			LAT/LONG:	lat/long data.	
			04.49329	lady long data.	
			101.38165 or:	Rivers states that the truck driver lived	
			04.49310	in Ringlet, south of Tanah Rata. The	
			101.38145	lat/long of this village is: <b>04.414322</b> ,	
			From GE	<b>101.383102</b> . He also states that the	
			examination:	"bones" were found at Tring Cap	
			04.493452	(Tringkap) NNE of Bringchang. The	
			101.381572	lat/long of this town per GE is:	
			101.361372	<b>04.512611, 101.430043</b> . Therefore,	
				the truck driver supposedly killed	
				Thompson, drove with the body about	
				9.2 km (by road per Google Maps) NE	
				into an area with poor to non-existent	
				· ·	
				roads, dug a grave, dumped the body,	
				drove back 7.4 km past the area of the	
				manslaughter, and proceeded another	Conclusion: Low
				16.8 km to his home somewhere in the	reliability.
				Ringlet area S of Tanah Rata. This all	
((A 1' - 1' - C	Laka	D C CDC	record the condition	seems unlikely.	C'ara Mard' ar ara
"Auntie" of	Late	Per Car GPS:	JT and the vehicle	Auntie (not clear if she was really a	Since Madi cannot
naturalist Madi;	afternoon	04.49261,	were perhaps 10-20	relative, or more likely this is a general	remember the name
name not recalled	on	101.37883	meters away, per	term for an older woman friend) saw JT	of the witness, and no
nor provided	Sunday?	Adjusted on	Madi. Hence	voluntarily get into a vehicle; the	name is available, it
		GE to:	about:	vehicle had several "big soldiers in	seems that the
		04.493664	04.493825	uniform" in it.	reasonable verdict is:
		101.378761	101.378777		Low Reliability



28. This was the paved road down from the Moonlight Cottage with the rock on which Jim was sitting smoking a cigarette when he greeted the Mission girl.

The stone beside the road on which JT was reportedly seen by the OMF servant. From Galleher, after p. 106.

One of the contributions of this report is to evaluate some of the witnesses based on the distance from JT that they appeared to be. This has not been done before in this case. Re distance identification by witnesses, there is surprisingly no scientific consensus on this important and rather basic matter. A summary of some findings is as follows.

Green and Fraser ("Observation distance and recognition...," *Perceptual and Motor Skills*, 2002, pp. 637-651) and Loftus and Harley ("Why is it easier to identify someone...," *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*, 2005, pp. 43-65) showed faces of celebrities to subjects at different distances, and stated that about 107 to 114 yards was reasonable for an average person to identify an 8 x 10 inch photo of a celebrity. But these studies have been vigorously criticized as having substantive typographical errors, confusing reporting, contradictions, and inappropriate methodology, since identifying strangers in a lineup is different from identifying celebrities, and the researchers did not use actual distances, but rather shrunken or blown up photos to simulate distance.

By contrast, Wagenaar et al. ("Face recognition as a function of distance...," *Psychology, Crime and Law,* 1996, pp. 321-332) proposed a "15 meter rule," stating that strangers could be re-identified at up to 15 meters, with a better than 50% accuracy rate, in lighting of at least 15 lux (bright lights at night). But beyond that distance, re-identification after the initial sighting dropped to an unacceptable 14%. (And of course even a 50% success rate is poor by courtroom standards of reasonable doubt or even preponderance of the evidence.)

Christopher M. Altman, *Can You See Me Now?* (Ball State University, M.A. Thesis, 2014) had subjects view well-lit target strangers for 20 seconds at various distances up to 80 yards, and then the subjects immediately answered questions about the stranger's clothing and appearance, viewed lineup photos in which the stranger was or was not present, and stated whether they were confident enough of their findings to testify in court. In this study, 48% of subjects correctly identified the stranger viewed at 20 yards, and this (rather low) percentage dropped to: 37% at 40 yards; 23% at 60 yards; and 18% at 80 yards. Furthermore, witnesses at all distances underestimated the distance from themselves to the target, with this error increasing as distance increased. Witnesses at 60 and 80 yards away were generally unwilling to say that they would testify in court on their identifications.

Since two key "witnesses" listed in the table above were found to have viewed the subject at more than 190 yards, their credibility is impeached. These were Mr. Subramanian, the gardener at the Lutheran Bungalow, viewing at almost 200 yards, and the OMF female servant No. 1 at the OMF Bungalow, viewing at about 763 feet, or 254 yards.

#### A Possible Sighting in Tahiti

Edward Pollitz, a businessman and "responsible American who had done commendable work in the International Executive Service Corps" who "had known JT for years" and was supposed to meet JT in Singapore the day after the disappearance, reportedly saw JT in Tahiti two months after the disappearance, on May 27, 1967. According to a confidential but declassified US Department of State telegram (the most detailed account of the sighting found to date), JT was in the lobby of the Hotel Tahiti, wearing "a sport shirt and gray slacks," when Pollitz spotted him from the manager's office. JT was with a Caucasian woman but Pollitz did not see her face. Pollitz called out JT's name but the individual did not respond, got into a black car with the woman, and departed. Pollitz was "positive" it was JT, but acknowledged that it could have been a case of mistaken identity.

This telegram/memo is presented in the annexes, and the original is located in the US National Archives II. The memo was deemed important enough that it was circulated in 1967 to Assistant Secretary of State William P. Bundy for his review and approval. It was also apparently sent to Bill Colby, then head of the CIA's east Asia division (and later head of the CIA).

According to Warren (pp. 178-9) and De Souza (p. 119), but not mentioned in the detailed State Department memo, Pollitz tried to trace JT via inquiries in Tahiti but failed.

Note that this sighting is the one that De Souza apparently believes "solved" the case, and hence he called his book: *Solved!* 

De Souza's information may have come from Galleher, p. 94, who states that Pollitz "contacted the local Pan Am manager to see if anyone matching the descriptions flew out of Tahiti that day, and made inquiries around the island" but these efforts failed. Or De Souza may have drawn on Warren, who said the same thing.

Martha Galleher flew to Tahiti to investigate this sighting, and found that the hotel manager remembered the shouting incident, but was vague on who was being shouted at. (Galleher, p. 141)

Galleher met with Malaysian police chief Santokh Singh in 1968, and he stated that Pollitz saw JT from only 30 feet away. (Galleher, p. 125)

Unfortunately, this sighting is somewhat problematic on several grounds:

- It is not clear where Singh got the figure of 30 feet
- The angle, lighting, time of day and other conditions are not given
- Pollitz himself made efforts to trace JT in Tahiti after the sighting, but did not find any clues.
- Pollitz did not report this sighting to the USG for about two weeks. The memo states that he did mention the sighting to named airline employees but did not report to the USG because he thought JT was on a "CAS mission" [classified assignment mission?] and thought JT did not respond to Pollitz's shout because JT was on a mission.
- A detailed follow-up cross-examination of Pollitz was apparently not undertaken (he died of leukemia in August 1968 at age 68).
- It is possible but extremely unlikely that Pollitz created this sighting because he was somehow involved in the disappearance and wanted to divert attention away from that.

All in all, it seems possible but unlikely that this sighting was correct.

## **Possible Sightings Long After the LKP**

Denis Horgan (interview in writing) states that "there were so many fevered sightings and theories I can't keep track."

JK (p. 197) states that JT was supposedly seen in Cambodia in at least two places (and smoking opium at one location), and was reportedly seen in Malaysia telling fortunes at a temple. (!)

De Souza (p. 74) states that JT was reportedly imprisoned in Cambodia, and a private team was organized to rescue him; that JT was sighted at the Thai resort island of Koh Samui (p. 77); and that it was speculated that JT was in China (pp. 63-4).

Galleher (p. 166) states that in 1969 the BBC reported that JT was supposedly sighted in Peking. In 1972 she "received classified information that made me believe that Jim was alive and in China" (p. 180). She followed up but was stonewalled by an ex-CIA official and the Chinese.

Gallaher states (p. 200) that there were some suggestions that JT arranged for a clandestine trip (after his disappearance) on a freighter from Singapore to Hong Kong, to visit his old friend and colleague Tao Oum from Laos.

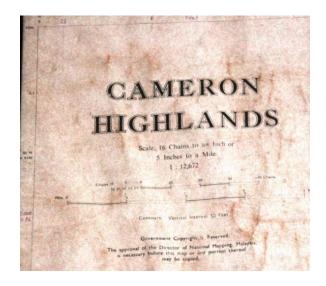
None of these sightings or theories were supported by any convincing, examinable evidence, and none yielded any results. The conclusion on all these must be: **low reliability**.

#### Maps

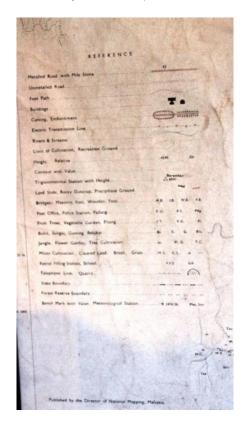
Maps are always key to SAR. In this case the following relevant maps were located:

- 1. A faded 1963 map in poor condition located in Brinchang CH, on a hotel wall, published in 1963 by the Director of National Mapping of Malaysia. Scale of 1: 12,672 (5 inches to the mile). Contour lines every 50 feet. Although this scale is excellent and very detailed, showing the Moonlight Bungalow by name and many other buildings, this map unfortunately has a large legend in the upper left covering a substantial part of the jungle NW of the MB. Pictures were taken of this map. Since the JT search took place only four years after this map was created, it is likely that this 1963 detailed map was used in the JT search.
- 2. An identical map in excellent condition, collected by the US Department of Defense, marked "Confidential" and "No distribution to foreign nationals." Found and scanned at the US Library of Congress. This map does not appear in the LoC catalog, but is in a folder marked "Cameron Highlands" in the Geography and Map Room.
- 3. A 1995 map of the CH, found in the CH in the offices of Perak Aleyak, who participated in the search for JT as a Boy Scout. (See the interview annex.) Scale of 1: 50,000. Photos taken.
- 4. Various tourist maps, not to scale, quite useless for SAR but somewhat interesting in that they show modern features and hiking trails. These were obtained in November 2013 in the CH.

The first three maps described above are presented here. The fourth category is presented in the Annexes.



Title of the faded topo map of the CH, from 1963, found in the CH on a hotel wall in Brinchang. The scale is 1 to 12,672 (5 inches to the mile; quite detailed) and the contour line interval is 50 feet of elevation.



Reference info from the Brinchang hotel 1963 map



A wide view of Tanah Rata from the 1963 map. The MB is in the upper center. Note the trail information in large numbers, added later to the map. If JT went walking SE, instead of northerly, and made it across the golf course without being sighted (except by one questionable witness), then he could have made it to the area of Trail #3, 4, or 5, which was apparently not a prime search area. If he had an accident there, his chances of being found would be reduced.

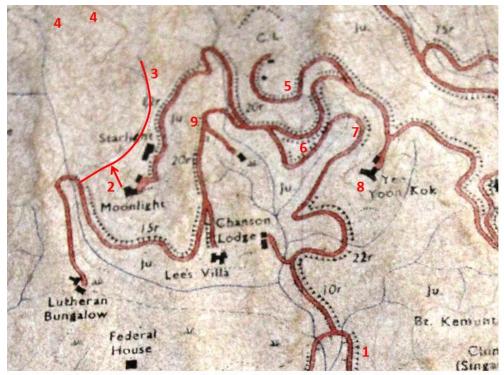


Wide view of JT search area from 1963 map. The Moonlight Bungalow ("Moonlight") is in upper left.

The golf course ("Golf Links") is in the center of this view.



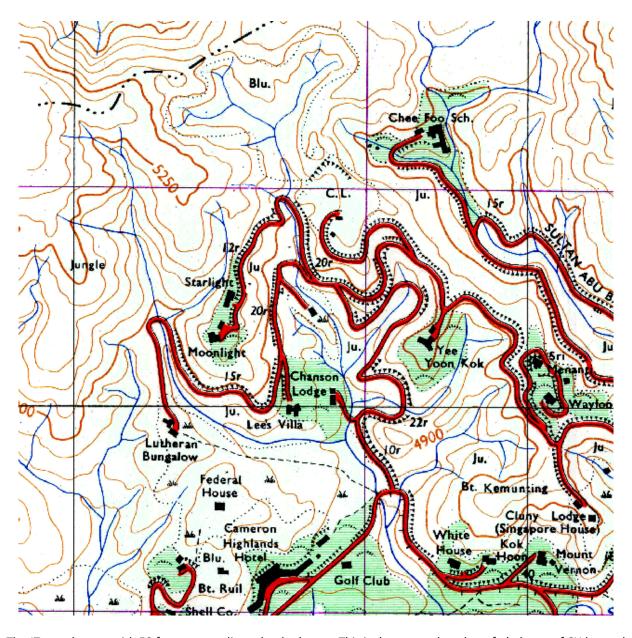
Medium closeup of part of the JT search area. Note: Moonlight Bungalow ("Moonlight") is center left, with the Lutheran Bungalow to the SW of the MB. The Cameron Highlands Hotel is on the NW side of the main Tanah Rata to Brinchang road, which runs generally from W to E across the bottom of this closeup, past the Golf Club, White House and Mount Vernon



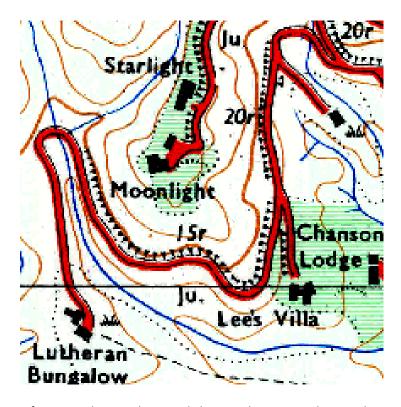
SCALE: Approx. 200 meters:

- 1. main road Tanah Rata to Brinchang; 2. kitchen trail downhill NNW from Moonlight Bungalow;
- 3. trail running along stream NW of MB, part of which is now called the "JT Mystery Trail"; 4. two-headed ridge NNW of MB; 5. area of "hornet's nest," now Strawberry Park Resort;
- 6. large stone where JT may have rested; 7. location where JT may have been killed by truck; 8. what is now the OMF Bungalow; 9. location where JT may have been picked up by car

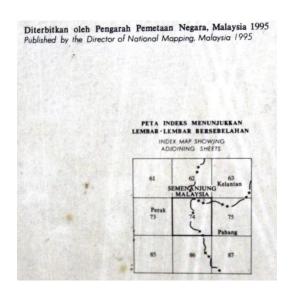
More detailed close-up of JT search area near Moonlight Bungalow, with key search locations, including the "kitchen trail," noted in red overlay



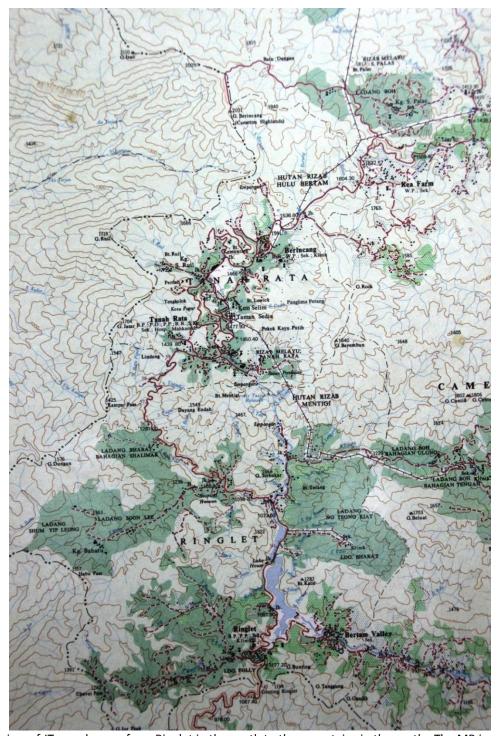
The JT search area, with 50 foot contour lines clearly shown. This is the un-cataloged, un-faded map of CH located at the Map and Geography Room, US Library of Congress (LoC), marked on front "Confidential," "Official Use Only," and "No foreign nationals," and on the back as created in 1963. Again, the scale is 1 to 12,672 (quite detailed). Note that the stream just west of the MB heads NE and N, then curves NNW.



Closeup of 1963 CH map from LoC, showing the Moonlight Bungalow. Note what may be a small trail (small black dots) going east and downhill from the MB, yet not connecting to anything. (Although this is perhaps more likely just an escarpment.) Note also that the "kitchen trail" that headed northwest and downhill from the MB (Capt. Mohammad interview) is not shown. (Galleher, p. 128, says she found "no" trails leading away from the MB.) Also not shown is the reported trail that existed going up the drainage and stream to the northwest of the MB. This trail apparently went up the east side of the stream, up through the word "Starlight," and then up near the head of the stream to end in an orang asli burial ground, also not shown on the map.



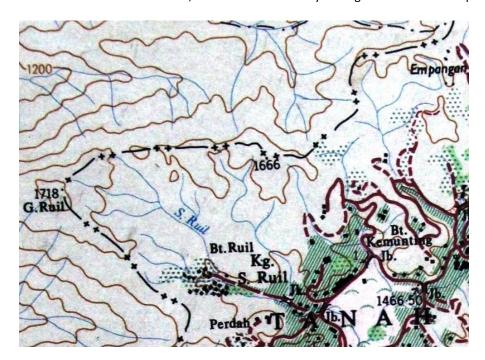
Date (1995) and other publication information from a more modern topo map



Very wide view of JT search area, from Ringlet in the south to the mountains in the north. The MB is north of the "AN" in the capitalized word "TANAH RATA." Map scale: 1:50,000. Contour interval: 100 meters. Source: 1995 topo map located in the CH. Mt. ("G.") Birincang is on the provincial border due north of Tanah Rata; this is where the morning picnic took place. Mt. ("G.") Irau, where Boy Scouts searched for JT immediately after the disappearance, is on the border NW of Mt. Birincang.



Closer view of Tanah Rata and Brinchang (Berincang) area on 1995 map. This map shows the topography of the search area N and NW of the MB, which was obscured by the legend in the 1963 map.



Close-up of JT search area on 1995 topo map. The MB is in the middle right,
Shown as 3 black squares in a N-S line, SE of the number 1666. The Lutheran Bungalow
is a single black square SSW of the MB complex. The topo detail is not as fine as in the 1963 map. Note the
"continental divide" border with the next province, just N and W of the MB. Also note the stream just west of the
MB goes NNW, not NNE, as on the 1963 map.

Conclusions that can be drawn from a review of these maps include:

- There was possibly a trail leading steeply downhill from the MB, headed east. This trail was not mentioned by Capt. Mohammad in his interview, but was alluded to by Madi (interview). Warren (p. 17) states that "there were a number of somewhat precarious paths," besides the road, for getting down off the MB's isolated hill.
- It would make sense that the "kitchen trail" (headed northwest from the MB) would exist, since it would provide a short cut to the Lutheran Bungalow, which has its own short cut trail (shown on the detailed 1963 map) heading SE towards the golf course and village.
- The terrain northeast, north, northwest, west and even southwest of the MB is steep, confusing and full of ravines and streams -- good terrain for getting lost.
- There are interesting hills just west of the MB, within sight of the bungalow, that might have been attractive to JT as a hiker with only a couple of hours to kill.
- The area east, southeast and due south of the MB is more populated, and the roads are fairly close together. Thus this area is less likely to hold a body which went undiscovered.
- Imagine that JT headed south from the MB instead of northerly, perhaps down the kitchen trail, south past the Lutheran Mission, and then towards the golf course. If he made it across the golf course without being sighted (except by one questionable witness who was discounted by police), then he could have made it to the area of Trail #3 (as shown on the faded 1963 map), which was apparently not a prime search area. If he had an accident there, his chances of being found would be reduced.
- Note regarding the last theory: Although the various eyewitnesses are rated as not very reliable, it must be admitted that a quite a few people claim to have seen JT. If all or most of them were in fact correct, then perhaps this was the right sequence: JT waved to gardener at the Lutheran Bungalow, crunched past the Ling's window and down the kitchen trail and thence to the Lutheran Bungalow, where he was seen by the cook. Then he walked around the road NE to the hornet's nest area, where he was seen across the ravine by an OMF servant. He departed the hornet's nest and walked down the road toward the golf course, intending to make it to the course by road or cross-country, as he had tried the day before. He stopped for a cigarette at the large stone beside the road, where he was seen from a few yards away by another OMF servant. Then JT continued down the road (or cross country) to the golf course, where he was seen near Trail 4, south of the golf course. He was determined to get in one last substantial hike before departing the CH (this was why he wanted to cut the picnic short earlier), and he began walking along one of the trails SE of the course. There he went in to the jungle, had an accident or a gall bladder attack off the trail, and collapsed. Since that area was not searched well or at all, his body was not found. Of course all this is very speculative.

The author has a 1 GB scan of the entire 1963 LoC map in TIFF format, a 27 GB PNG version of the entire 1963 LoC map, and jpeg versions of portions of the faded 1967 topo map and the modern 1995 topo map presented above. These can be made available to serious researchers on request.

# **Analysis of the Search**

#### **Evaluation and Calculations Re the Search Effort**

Unfortunately little detailed information is available on the 1967 search, in terms of techniques and locations. No search files or annotated search maps have been located. The table below attempts to categorize the search by time line. Guesses and assumptions by me are in italics. As will be discussed later, even reports from the time period must be treated carefully, since the number and comprehensiveness of searches, and the probability of detection, are often exaggerated in many if not most searches. Press reports are often quite unreliable.

Note that the term "hasty search" is not derogatory and in fact is an appropriate technique in the period just after a disappearance; but care must be taken not to destroy clues, and to document what was done during the search.

The table below shows the search dates, and for each day, the activity, number and type of searchers (often a guesstimate), their likely focus and techniques, and estimated number of person days delivered.

Dates	Activity (and Source)	Est. # & Type of Searchers	Focus Area	Techniques	Est. # of Person Days (PDs) Delivered
Sunday, March 26, after 6 pm; DAY 1	Hasty search led by Dr. Ammundsen and others. (Galleher, p. 13, citing April 6, 1967 report from Charles Sheffield)	"Local residents, schoolchildren, hospital patients" (ibid.)	Probably roads near the MB.  Bungalows in the area ("The Teacher" interview)	Probably walking roads and perhaps trails and calling out for JT.	Assume 32 people times 2 hours of daylight and twilight; = 64 hours; = 8 PDs
Monday, March 27 DAY 2	Hasty search reaching up to 300 searchers by Monday evening (Sheffield)	"Large group of Malaysian Field Forces, US Embassy official from KL, by Monday evening more than 300 searchers combing the jungle." (ibid.)	Probably roads and trails radiating out from the MB, esp. to the north; and the jungle near the MB	Probably walking roads and trails and calling out for JT, looking for sign and spoor, possibly some line abreast searching.	Assume average during the day of 200 persons, times 6 hours per person, = <b>150</b> PDs
		15 Boy Scouts and 5 orang asli trackers for 4 hours (Interview with "the Teacher")	Main and side trails up to Gunnung Iran Mountain	Walking main and side trails, calling out "Mr. Jim, Mr. Jim" and looking for sign  The "jungle trackers were not really organized for a good 24 hours," Warren, p. 155	Assume 20 people times 4 hours = <b>10</b> PDs

Tues, March 28	More organized search, by up to 300	"300 searchers" with "200 men from Police Field Force, a tracker	Searching the jungle for 5 mile radius around	Use of loud hailers, tracker dog,	Assume average during
DAY 3	searchers ( <i>Straits</i> <i>Times</i> (ST), Wed., March 29)	dog, aborigines, British patients, 1 helo." (ST 3/29) Schoolchildren	the MB, also Robinson waterfall, rec	aborigine tracking, trail walking, probably some line abreast searches	the day of 400 persons, times 6 hours per person, = <b>300</b>
	JK (p. 186) cites 1984 Life article, which states "nearly 400	and British Army volunteers also searched. (see below)	ground, golf course. (ST 3/29)		PDs
	people searchingthe	"something like 325 policemen now			
	biggest rescue operation ever	involved, plus about 30 aborigines,"			
	attempted in Malaysia"	"altogether about 400 people," Warren, p. 137-8			
Wed., March 29	Orang asli trackers	3 aborigine squads of 6- 7 men each (Galleher,	Aborigine squads	Searching for sign and spoor	Assume 7 aborigines x 3
DAY 4	Grang asii trackers	p. 10, citing State Dept. cable, date unclear.)	"searched likely streams and trails extending 6 mi. N of the	and spoor	squads x 7 hours = <b>18</b> PDs
			MB"		
	Helicopters	3 helos beginning 4 pm for one hour (ibid.)	Unclear where helos searched	Helo overhead search, but not effective; use terminated quickly	Assume 9 helo observers x 1 hrs ea. = <b>1</b> PD
	Possibly somewhat	"About 100 searchers	_		
	reduced but still organized ground	continued, with the students from Dalat	Area N of MB	Assume 100 searchers	Assume 100 searchers x 6
	search. Unclear if	American School and	"Area covering	continued	hours ea., = <b>75</b>
	100 or 300 police and	British Army volunteers	primarily two miles in each		PDs
	military or police continued to search.	stopping their search efforts after the lunch break." (De Souza, p.	direction from  MB" (Galleher p.		
	On Day 4, "Thompson fever	34.)	10)		
	went up another	"Greatest number of			
	notch when a reward of about RM 200,000 (\$10,000 USD	searchers" were on days 1,2, and 3 (Warren, pp. 144-5)			
	according to De				
	Souza, p. 32) was offered Locals	Difficult to estimate. Cheang cites "118	Likely on trails	Cheang cites	Assume 50
	began organizing	mystics." Also,	already	unusual SAR	persons x 4
	their own search parties." (Michael	"everyone was leaving work early to go look in	searched, with some searching	techniques used by the mystics:	hours ea. = <b>25</b> <b>PDs</b> for this
	Cheang, "Re-living the day Jim	the jungle"  But not all mystics	of virgin jungle.	Setting off fireworks, reciting	day
	Thompson went	would actually deliver		incantations,	
	missing," Star2, 26 March 2012.) De	ground searching, and some people could only		hitting gongs and trying to "ward off	
	Souza (p. 32) states that Charles Sheffield	search after work. Assume 50 extra		evil spirits."	
	offered the reward	people/day for the five			
	on behalf of the Thai Silk Company.	days.			

	At about the same time, the Malaysian Police offered a standard award of about \$3000 USD (De Souza, p. 32).  In the afternoon of this day, Asst. Commissioner of Police Yussof Khan, head of the search, was recalled to Ipoh, and Supt. A.S. Nathan was put in charge, but the transition was "smooth, with no				
	change in strategy"				
Thurs March 30 DAY 5	(De Souza, pp. 28-29)	"300 police searched for 11 days, then the number reduced to 100," De Souza, p. 45. But he also says "100 searchers continued" on this day	Not clear	Probably line searches	Assume 100 searchers x 6 hours ea., = 75 PDs  Additional factor for mystics and after work searchers: Assume 50 persons x 4 hours ea. = 25 PDs for this day
Fri March 31		"100 searchers continued"	Not clear	Probably line searches	Assume 100 searchers x 6 hours ea., = <b>75</b>
DAY 6		Gen. Edwin Black joined the search with "his crew" (De Souza, pp. 42-3). (The Straits Times story of 2 April seems to indicate that Black arrived on April 1.)	Not clear	Set up comms tower, did interviews, walked trails with aborigine guides, and looked for vistas that might have appealed to JT (Warren, p. 149) Horgan (interview) says that only he and Black searched, and Dean Frasche did not, but he does mention "local guides." Horgan also states, that contrary to many	Assume 6 searchers x 7 hours ea., = 5 PDs  Mystics + part- timers: Assume 50 persons x 4 hours ea. = 25 PDs for this day

			sources, no US Army helos were brought in on the search.	
Sat April 1 DAY 7	"200+ officers and men from Perak's police field force" + others (De Souza, p. 42.) "100 searchers continued"	Not clear	Not clear but probably line searches	Assume 100 searchers x 6 hours ea., = <b>75</b> PDs
	"Gen. Black and his crew went on a separate probe of their own." (Ibid.) Black "informed press and police that he was taking over the search" JK, p. 187.	Likely N and NW of the MB	Trail walking (see above)	Assume 6 searchers x 7 hours ea., = <b>5</b> PDs
	319 p. 107.			Mystics + part- timers: Assume 100 persons x 4 hours ea. = <b>50</b> <b>PDs</b> for this day (more time available on weekend)
Sun April 2 DAY 8	"300 police" "100 searchers continued"  Gen. Black called off his	Not clear	Not clear but probably line searches	Assume 100 searchers x 6 hours ea., = <b>75</b> PDs
	search and returned to	None	None	Zero  Mystics + part- timers: Assume 100 persons x 4 hours ea. = 50 PDs for this day (more time available on weekend)
Mon April 3  DAY 9	"300 police"  "100 searchers continued"  Assume mystics and part-timers have now been accounted for – Cheang states that "by the second week everyone had pretty much resumed their normal daily lives"	Not clear	Not clear but probably line searches	Assume 100 searchers x 6 hours ea., = <b>75</b> PDs
4 time, the 1	100 3001 011013	Not clear	Not clear but probably line searches	Assume 100 searchers x 6 hours ea., = <b>75</b>

DAY 10	addition to the \$10,000 USD already offered. This \$2,500 came from George Barrie, a business associate of JT (De Souza, p. 45). At some point, "soon" after the disappearance, the reward was increased to \$25,000, because this was considerably higher than the "standard" ransom for Chinese businessmen of \$10,000, and it was felt that a much higher sum might be more effective. (Testimony, p. 13, of Henry Thompson III, nephew of JT, 10 June 1974, before the Register of Wills, Wilmington, DE.; estate file of JT.)	But, Galleher, p. 23 says "the official search lasted for 9 days and ended on April 4"  Warren, p. 144 and 154 states "the official search lasted 10 days" but "small groups of police and non-official searchers continued occasional searches"			PDs
Wed April 5 DAY 11		"50 police left Tanah Rata and headed 8 km into the jungle" (De Souza, p. 43).	Not clear	Probably trail searching	Assume 50 searchers x 8 hours ea., = <b>50</b> PDs
		"Nine men led by Yip Wah entered the woods on their own search," De Souza, p. 43.	Not clear	Probably trail searching	Assume 9 men x 6 hours ea., = 7 PDs
Thurs April 6 +		"Perak Adventurers Club, with 12 members in 2 teams, searched for 3 days in mid-April," Warren, p. 154	Not clear	Probably trail searching	Assume 12 men x 6 hours/day x 3 days; = <b>27</b> PDs
AND AFTER- WARDS		"small groups of police," Warren, p. 154	Not clear	Probably trail searching	Assume 6 men per group x 6 hours/day x 3 days x 5 groups; = <b>67</b> PDs
		"'Thompson' the taxi driver and 2 others searched for JT and got lost themselves for a week," De Souza, p. 124	W and S of Tanah Rata	Probably trail searching, then lost	Assume 3 men x 6 hrs/day x 7 days; = <b>16</b> PDs
		"Non-official searchersattracted by the reward," Warren, p. 154.	Not clear	Probably trail searching	Assume 4 men per group x 6 hours/day x 3 days x 8 groups; = <b>72</b> PDs

	"On April 23, Richard Noone, a British officer with SEATO [and former anthropologist and intelligence officer] and two assistants searched for 36 hours," De Souza, pp. 46 and 54 "some weeks later" Horgan returned with psychic Hurkos, but did no real searching (Horgan interview)	Not clear	Questioned aborigines and searched	3 men x 36 hours = <b>12</b> PDs
GRAND TOTAL # OF EST. PERSON DAYS				1448 PDs (8 hour days); or 11584 person-hours

This is the first time any such day-by-day quantitative analysis has been attempted. One thing that this interesting exercise has made clear: no-one was keeping careful track of the overall searchers or search days delivered.

The number of person hours delivered above, at 11,584, is a very large number indeed. Translated to person days, this is 1448. Denis Horgan (interview) estimates that the number of person-days delivered in total was in the "high hundreds," not over one thousand. So the number above of 1448 is quite generous, and if anything is an over-estimate.

Horgan also makes the following important points re search tactics:

- The jungle was so thick when off trail that undertaking line abreast searching was really impractical. So the assumption above, and calculations below, that a substantial portion of the searching was line abreast may also be quite generous.
- The helicopters used were not US Army, as reported in the press, but were from Malaysia. In any case, the jungle canopy was so thick that they were quite ineffectual, and were not used much.
- The search strategy used by the Malaysian police and army was to search the roads and trails around the MB and spread out deeper into the jungle as the trails and terrain allowed. Again, spaced line searches were not practical, due to the density of the jungle. (Thus this contradicts Capt. Mohammad.) "Searchers ... stuck to the trails....working their way down increasingly difficult trails, and exploring out where it might be possible that a person might have gone."
- Training varied considerably across the searchers. Initial searchers did not have formal training but many knew the area. The larger search forces brought in later had lots of eyes and legs, but not high skills or training.

Recall the comment reported earlier by a Tanah Rata policeman, who stated that "a regiment of men" working for a month would have been necessary to cover the area around the MB in the search. Quantifying this statement led to the figure of about 48,900 person days being needed. The 1,448 person days estimated above as actually delivered is only 2.9% of the estimated 48,900 person days required.

#### Calculations on the Maximum Search Area Obtained

Capt. Mohammad stated that the search for JT was done up to three miles north of and around the MB (a diameter of six miles and thus a radius of three miles)<sup>8</sup>. If we assume that the search area included the area shown in the figure below, then this would constitute a portion, about 5/8, of an approximate circle with a radius of 3 miles. Using the formula of  $A = \pi r^2 \times 5/8$ ), this yields an area of 17.7 square miles to be searched, a substantial area. This area is shown within the yellow line below.

Note that if one contends that the area that really needed to be searched was more like 6 miles out from the MB, then a calculation using the same formula would yield about 70.7 square miles to be searched, shown in the light green area below.



Apparent search area, with the yellow line showing the 3 mile radius.

The entire light green area shows a 6 mile radius.

Turning to the maximum area that could have been searched, the "Grid Search Planning Formulas" developed by NASAR (p. 222) are useful here. The second formula presented by NASAR states that the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Capt. Mohammad stated in his interview that 75% of the three mile circle around the MB was searched intensively; here I assume that the portion of the circle E and SE of the MB was not searched intensively, since that was more populated. If we use the Captain's figures, then the conclusions below are reinforced, since the search area that should have been searched in 1967 was even larger than the number of 17.7 square miles that I use.

area in square miles that can be searched by a team of searchers can be calculated by the following formula:

where 3.5 is the estimated average number of hours for a grid searcher to go one mile, as determined by Wartes and Koopman and other studies.

In the JT case, the number of searcher hours has already been estimated in the table above, at 11,584. Hence the formula can be revised to:

Area (sq. mi.) = 
$$\frac{\text{Spacing (ft)} \times 11,584}{5280 \text{ (ft)} \times 3.5}$$

Now assume various scenarios of searching, in terms of spacing and usefulness of searchers:

- A. The spacing for all searchers was 40 yards, or 120 feet, as described by Capt. Mohammad in his interview. Inserted in the formula, this would yield an area that could be searched as 75.2 square miles. Thus under this approach, it would appear that the 17.7 square miles to be searched, could have in fact been searched several times over. Is this scenario realistic, however? After all, Scenario A assumes that all the terrain was triple canopy jungle with very open land under the canopy, which could be covered with a very wide spacing indeed, of 120 feet. Then consider scenario B, as follows.
- B. Here half the searchers were spaced at 120 feet, per Capt. Mohammad, but half were spaced at 8 feet, as shown in the *Straits Times* photo and as demanded by very thick ground cover jungle. Here the formula yields a searchable area of only 38.9 square miles.
- C. In a third scenario, imagine that Capt. Mohammad was incorrect (or at least incorrect with reference to many of the searchers), or that the 40 yard spacing was used for only a negligible percentage of the search. Imagine instead that all the searchers did line searches, but that the spacing was 12 feet. This approach would yield only 7.5 square miles as the maximum searchable area. This area is less than half of the 17.7 square miles required.
- D. Increasing the pessimism of the search factors, imagine that 8 foot spacing was required, and that normal speed of advance was halved, to 7.0 hours per mile per searcher, due to the very difficult terrain in the CH, with numerous ravines, steep hills, many streams, etc. This approach would lead to an estimate of only 2.5 square miles that could have been searched.
- E. Now consider a very pessimistic estimate in which ¾ of the searchers just walked up and down the same trails over and over, or were mystics setting off firecrackers and basically delivering no useful searching. Assume that the remaining ¼ of the searchers did line abreast searching at ½ normal speed (i.e. at 7.0 hours per mile per searcher) at a spacing of 8 feet. Plugging these figures into the formula yields a remarkably low figure of only 0.6 square miles searched!
- F. Finally, consider what I feel is a reasonable scenario/guesstimate, namely that about 2/5 of the searchers (mainly police or military) did line abreast searching as described by Capt.

  Mohammad, with 120 foot spacing; but went 50 percent slower than the normal speed (i.e., 5.25 hours per mile; due to the very difficult terrain); and 1/5 of searchers (again military or police) did 8 foot spacing at half normal speed (i.e. 7 hours per mile); and 2/5 of searchers contributed little to the effective search (but rather kept walking up and down the same trails until they dead-ended). This would then yield a maximum searched area of about 11.0 square

miles, rather short of the 17.7 required. I consider that this estimate is fairly realistic, but if anything is on the high side.

This estimate of 11 square miles is possibly independently supported by Henry B. Thompson, the brother of JT, who stated on 10 June 1974 under examination at the New Castle County, Delaware Register of Wills, that "the forest was combed for 10 to 15 miles around" (see the annex on the will and administration of JT). If by this he meant <u>square</u> miles, which he probably did, then this figure is in the same range. (It seems unlikely that he could mean 10 to 15 radial miles around the MB, since he stated that the search team consisted of only 200 Boy Scouts. My estimate of 11 square miles was done before having the Henry B. Thompson statement in hand, and thus was independent of it.)

Note that <u>all</u> the above scenarios involve creating a "coverage of 1.0" in NASAR terminology (p. 217). In other words, each location in the search area is only covered once. However, as NASAR points out (pp. 215-217), a coverage of 1.0 does <u>not</u> yield a Probability of Detection (PoD) of 100%. In fact, due to various factors in land searches, such as "searcher fatigue, attention lapses, variations of searcher tracks from those assigned...terrain, vegetation, etc.," the PoD realized is <u>much less</u> than 100%. The actual PoD achieved can be calculated from an Exponential Detection Function (NASAR, p. 215) with the formula:

$$PoD = 1 - e^{-C}$$

Where "C" is the coverage and "e" is the base of the natural logarithm. This gives a curve, in which a coverage of 0.5 yields a PoD of about 40%, a coverage of 1.0 yields a PoD of only 63%, and it takes a coverage of 2.0 to achieve a PoD of 86%. This means that even if every location in the searched area is covered by searchers, twice, there is still a 14% chance that the victim will not be found. Furthermore, NASAR states that PoDs in excess of 63% are usually "overblown" and "need to be carefully justified or discounted by search planners."

Recall that the analysis above was driven by the assumption that JT went a maximum of three miles from the MB, and did not go in an E, SE or S direction. In NASAR terms, we have determined that the chances are that that JT is in this "segment" of the possible search area. This chance is called the "probability of area" or PoA. This probability is not 100%, because there is certainly some chance that JT walked further than three miles, or perhaps went E or SE, and thus is not in the specified segment of the search area.

The probability of success (PoS) for any search is the PoA x PoD (NASAR, p. 93). Let us first take a reasonable but optimistic view. Here we assume that the chance that JT is in the search area described above is 75% (i.e., PoA is 75%), and the PoD in the search area is 63%. Here the overall PoS is only 47%.

It might well be the case that JT is outside this described search area, in another segment. Consider the following facts:

• JT was keen on hiking and finding unusual plants and orchids, and "liked difficult terrain," and even "liked to get lost"

- JT might have gotten lost and gone much further than three miles in an effort to locate a road, stream or habitation
- In fact, JT's friend and colleague Gen. Black stated that JT would likely "follow a stream" to find civilization. However, if JT went north or northwest and passed over the "continental divide" into the next state of Malaysia, all streams would lead into wilderness.
- JT might have continued walking in the moonlight, and gone beyond the search area even as the hasty search was getting under way.

In fact, the 1967 searchers recognized this possibility, and undertook some searching on and along trails for several kilometers <u>beyond</u> the three mile limit from the MB (Capt. Mohammad interview). However, even in difficult terrain, JT could perhaps have continued beyond the three (or approximate six) mile limit in the first afternoon and/or the first night.

Taking a more pessimistic view, based on the factors above, one might reasonably assume that the PoA is only 55% and the PoD (in the searched area) was perhaps also 55%. Then the <u>overall PoS would only</u> be 30.3%.

Of course, as contended by most other writers, it is quite possible that JT was and is not anywhere near the search area. (For example, he went to Tahiti, China, Cambodia, etc.) This is called in SAR terminology a "bogus search" – meaning a "full scale search for a subject who is not there to be found" (NASAR, p. 146-147). To give this theory its due, NASAR notes (p. 147), that two studies have found that about 25% of searches in the US and Canada for lost hikers were bogus, and NASAR states that "searchers will usually suspect a bogus search when the incident has been proceeding for several or more hours without the discovery of clues." And the JT case has been going on for 48 years with no real discovery of clues!

### Application of Statistical and Other Analyses from Koester's Lost Person Behavior

Robert J. Koester, *Lost Person Behavior* (Charlottesville, VA: dbS Productions, 2008) worked with and was the lead creator of the International Search and Rescue Incident Database (ISRID), with over 16,000 SAR incidents usable for full analysis, and was able to develop statistical profiles of lost persons using these data.

Koester has various categories of lost person, and the one that fits JT best would seem to be "hiker" ("walkers, hill walkers/fell walkers (in the UK), day hikers..." (p. 183). One could argue that JT also exhibits some characteristics of the following categories: "gatherer," "despondent," and perhaps "abduction," but hiker seems to fit best, and I will leave it to future researchers to try to combine categories in JT's case.

Koester narratively notes (pp. 183-4) the following characteristics of missing hikers that may be relevant to the JT case:

The "lost" scenario accounts of 68% of missing hikers.

- Errors [by the hiker] typically occur at decision points (rail junctions, obscure trails, game trails, social trails, head of drainages).
- Other common errors include heading the wrong direction down a trail. Errors at decision points account for 56% of lost cases.
- Hikers are generally guided by terrain to other linear features once they are lost. Many follow the path of least resistance.
- Among hikers, 32-48% will be found uphill in relation to the IPP.
- In general, around a third (30-40%) will travel at night. (This is a very substantial figure, and is probably even higher in the JT case, when JT was probably a bit arrogant about his knowledge of the terrain, embarrassed by getting lost, and determined to "self rescue.")

Koester's statistical tables (pp. 184-5) on lost hikers reveal the following interesting facts:

- In temperate mountainous climates, 75% of lost hikers will be found within 3.6 miles of the IPP, and 95% will be found within 11.3 miles. [CH is a temperate climate compared to the other category, "dry climate."]
- In temperate climates, 32% of lost hikers are found uphill of the IPP in elevation, 52% below the IPP, and 16% at the same elevation. 75% are found within 1166 to 1175 up or down from the IPP.
- In temperate climates, 25% of lost hikers are found near or at linear features (this is by far the largest "find location"), and 14% are found in fields and 13% in structures and 13% at roads. 12% are found in drainages.
- In terms of scenario, 68% were classified as "lost," while 7% were "trauma," and only 2% were "medical." Interestingly, of Koester's 2242 cases of hikers, none or almost none were "despondent" or "criminal" the latter meaning that the hiker was the victim of an abduction or murder. Only 1% were "evading" (meaning intentionally trying to evade being found). Thus if JT was abducted, murdered or disappeared intentionally, this would be a very, very rare case indeed.
- The "dispersion angle" and the "track offset" statistics might be useful if we knew what trail or linear feature JT followed. Unfortunately, this is unknown.
- The "survivability" statistics show that even 96 hours after going missing, 49% of lost hikers are
  found alive. This surprisingly high figure shows that (statistically) the chances were good that JT
  could have survived for a number of days in the jungle.

Koester poses 26 "additional investigation questions" which should be asked and answered regarding lost hikers. Drawing on the material presented earlier, we can answer many of these questions and subquestions briefly here with regard to JT (in *italics*; "N/A" means not applicable), as follows:

- 1. Years of experience at hiking? Over 40. Frequency? Not clear.
- 2. Years of experience in this particular area? *About 6-8 days.* Frequency? *These 6-8 days were spread over three visits to the CH in several years.*
- 3. Destination and expected route? Not clear. From the evidence above, the nine following routes or destinations seem possible, in approximate order of likelihood: 1. Hornet's nest area; 2. Near

the JT stone beside the road; 3. Cross country again (duplicating the previous day's hike), southbound, from the MB to the Lutheran Bungalow and/or the Golf Course; 4. Even further southbound, beyond the Golf Course to the trails S and SE of Tana Ratah; 5. North-westbound cross country, to the top of the two headed ridge in sight of the MB; 6. Down the "kitchen trail" and then north and up the drainage (and current "JT Mystery Trail") toward the orang asli burial ground; 7. Returning to the site of the morning picnic, atop Mt. Birincang; 8. In a general northerly direction, cross country, from the MB; 9. to the Anglican Church SE of the Golf Course. Unfortunately, these nine fan out in most directions from the MB. Alternate routes? Trails, roads or cross-country. Willingness to try new routes? High. Familiar with destination, how often? Not clear.

- 4. Purpose of hike, and goals? *Not clear*.
- 5. If it is a new destination, who suggested it? *Not clear*. Directions given? *Not clear*. Contact information? *None*. Map provided? *No*. Type of map? *No map*.
- 6. Follow trail, road, water, willing to go cross-country? Any of these. Tend to follow trail or go cross-country? Either, although the jungle makes cross-country difficult. But JT had gone cross-country just the day before with Dr. Ling, gotten lost, and liked it! Action when encountering thick or difficult terrain? Not clear, but probably keep stubbornly going, and if lost, possibly follow a drainage or stream downhill.
- 7. Navigational ability: competent with map and compass? Yes, but did not have either. Skill level? Moderately high. Ability to determine position if off a trail? In the CH, probably not. Ever hike or navigate at night? Likely yes, many years before in WW II. Able to navigate in limited visibility? Unclear. CH does have fog, especially in the evening, fairly frequently. Able to read contour lines? No map present. Probably able to maintain a contour line walking on a hill, if desired.
- 8. Familiar with location? How long? How many hikes? See 2 above. Likely 6-8 individual hikes in the CH, spread over several years.
- 9. Other locations hiked before? Yes. Locations? Northern Thailand, France, Balkans. Routes? In northern Thailand, following villager directions to caves, ruined temples, and sites of artistic and archaeological finds.
- 10. Other locations interested in or heard about recently? *JT was heard to mention on his second* visit to the CH his desire to return to the hornet's nest area again in future, apparently due to the good view.
- 11. Typical planning taken for a hike? *Spontaneous, when in the CH. In northern Thailand, likely equipped a 4WD vehicle well for initial access, followed by hiking gear.*
- 12. Planning for this hike? Apparently spontaneous, with little to no planning and no gear and hardly any possessions.
- 13. Trip intentions left? *No.* Where and with whom? *N/A.* Left intention on web site or with officials? *No.* Any emergency alternatives planned? *No.*
- 14. Checked weather prior to leaving? *No.* What was original forecast? *Likely fine; but unlikely that any formal forecast was available to JT or anyone in the CH.* Any unexpected change in forecast? *Apparently not.*
- 15. Resources used to research trip? N/A.

- 16. Computer, browsing history, blogs? N/A.
- 17. Usual hiking partner and contact info? *Dr. Ling hiked with JT the day before, but apparently pulled a muscle or tendon and was a bit shaken by getting lost, hence did not accompany JT. JT's hiking partners and partners in seeking Buddha heads and other artifacts in upcountry Thailand were not present in the CH.*
- 18. Expected return time? *About sunset, thus about 6 to 6:30 pm.* Estimated departure time? *Between 2:30 pm and 4 pm.* Estimated time allowed for hike? *Perhaps 2-3 hours.* Usual walking pace on flat, uphill, and downhill? *Not clear.*
- 19. Does subject typically hike solo or in a group? *Both.* If a group hiker, does he have any experience at navigation or making decisions? *Yes.*
- 20. Persons who have hiked with the subject in the past? See 6 and 17 above.
- 21. Pictures available of previous hikes showing equipment currently in use? *No. Almost certainly no equipment present.*
- 22. Any instructions or survival training on what to do if lost, and source of instruction? Yes, survival and jungle warfare training in Ceylon in WW II, provided to JT by the OSS. Some of this training apparently included "follow a drainage or stream downhill to civilization." Able to light a fire? Possibly. May have had matches and a few cigarettes with him. Apparently left his only lighter behind, at the MB. Prepared to camp out? Had no camping equipment at all. Perhaps could have improvised from his jungle training years before, but without a knife, parang and other minimal equipment (the five Cs: cutting tool, cover, container, cordage, combustion device), this seems unlikely.
- 23. Any emergency beacons or communications signaling devices? *No.* How severe of a problem before subject would attempt to signal. *Probably quite severe.*
- 24. Would subject attempt or know how to signal an air resource? Yes, but helos were used for only a few hours on one search day, without success, due to the thick jungle canopy.
- 25. Did subject have any learning disabilities? No.
- 26. Other health concerns that affected ability to hike? *Yes, possibly. Gallstone attacks about every six months, and intermittent amoebic dysentery.*

### Koester also notes the following points of general interest:

- In the 12,900 ISRID cases for which length of search time data are present, 93% of the time the subject is found within the first day. The average (mean) search time is 16 hours. Thus the 11+ day search time for JT is extremely unusual (p. 47).
- The amount of time elapsed during the search does not have a strong correlation with how far away the subject is found (p. 51). This surprising finding means that statistically speaking, just because the JT search went on unusually long is not a predictor that his remains will be found unusually far from the IPP.
- "Anyone who spends enough time in the woods will, sooner or later, become lost." (Kenneth Hill, Ph.D., in Koester, p. 53.)
- Right-handedness (as JT was) is not a good predictor of veering right unconsciously when lost (p.
   62). Americans do tend to veer right more than Britons, but persons who drive on the left and

- are right handed (as JT was, driving on the left in Thailand and Malaysia) can veer right or left about equally.
- Most lost persons are found close to the IPP, and the probability of a find drops off with distance from the IPP. Earlier assertions that there was a "doughnut hole" of low probability close to the IPP are incorrect. (p. 64-5.) With lost hikers, as mentioned above, 75% will be found within 3.6 miles of the IPP, in temperate, mountainous terrain (like the CH).
- Lost persons do not always go downhill, contrary to the myth (p. 68).
- A significant percentage of lost subjects travel at night (pp. 69-70).
- It is erroneous to think that investigation of the particular incident at hand is always better than statistical profiling of all similar cases. Sources of information about the lost person can be misleading, eyewitnesses are often wrong, and relatives and friends can give deluded, polite and erroneous information, thus leading investigations astray (pp. 71-2).

#### Possible Errors in the Search Execution

The National Association for Search and Rescue (NASAR) manual *Managing the Lost Person Incident* (Centreville, VA: NASAR, 2007) pp. 4-5, states that there are nine classic errors made in many unsuccessful lost person incidents. These are listed below, with an estimation on whether they might have occurred in the JT search.

Classic Error Summary	Classic Error Details	Analysis re JT Search	Conclusion re JT Search
Agency responsible is un- or poorly prepared for the size and scope of the incident	Errors likely result in large, multi-agency incidents lasting several days, with numerous spontaneous volunteers	All of these error details are present in the JT search: nothing like this had happened before in the area; the search was large; multi-agency and multi-group; lasted many days; and had many spontaneous volunteers, especially in the first few days.	Very likely that this error occurred
Ambiguity of authority during the incident	Uncertainty as to who is in charge, no visible chain of command	During the initial hasty search, this was likely a problem, although Dr. Einner Ammundsen is credited with doing a good job. Each military and police unit mobilized during the second phase probably had a good interior chain of command, but it seems likely that there was much poorer command across various units from different organizations (e.g. police, Gurkhas, RAMC, orang asli, etc.). This is especially true when later, different foreigners (e.g. Gen. Edwin Black and Richard Noone) effectively took charge or conducted their own searches. (Although Horgan (interview) states that Black coordinated with locals and did not "take over" the search.) De Souza (p. 28) states that the search leader changed on March 29, with Asst. Comm. of Police Yusoff Khan being recalled to Ipoh, and Supt. A.S. Nathan being put in charge, but the handover was "smooth" with "no changein strategy." Various independent searches took place, especially after a \$10,000 and then an additional \$3000 USD reward was offered. (Ibid., pp. 32-4.) At some point the	Very likely that this error occurred

	I		
		reward was set at \$25,000, because this was considerably higher than the "standard" ransom for Chinese businessmen of \$10,000, and it was felt that a much higher sum might be much more effective. (See the Opinion by the Register of Wills, in the annex on the will and administration of JT.)	
		Noel Busch, a staff writer for Reader's Digest, wrote to Martha Galleher (p. 171) and stated that "there was some ambiguity as to which government [Malaysia or Thailand] had the final responsibility" in the search.	Thus Busch clearly feels this error occurred.
No system for relieving fatigued search managers	Direction is given by leaders who are exhausted and lack sleep	Unclear if this was a problem	Unclear if this error occurred
Investigation concerning the missing person was incomplete or terminated too soon	Vital info missed; key witnesses not interviewed; investigation terminated once the search begins	Unclear if this was a problem; although it could be argued that the Richard Noone statement that "JT is not in the jungle" cut off serious jungle searching too soon.	Quite possible that this error occurred
		Horgan (interview) states that he got the impression that the Malay authorities concluded "early on" that JT had been removed from the area.	
		Capt. Mohammad makes it clear that he and other search leaders thought early on, based on the trailing dog results, that JT was not in the jungle.	
Lack of coherent search plan or strategy	High probability areas not identified and given priority. Plan is simply to expand the search area.	The hasty search early on, and the first part of the more organized search, seemed to focus on trail and road examination. This then switched to stream examination. This all seems logical. Then later grid ("hand to hand") searching was apparently used to some extent, but no information on if this was guided by probability and terrain analysis.	Unclear if this error occurred in the main effort, but given the various organizations involved, it seems quite possible that the "strategy" was to just keep looking and expanding the search area.
		General Black's announcement that he was "taking over the search" from the police of another country must surely have meant that he changed the search strategy. But Horgan's version is quite different, with Black just cooperating with and not getting in the way of the main effort, and not trying to take over.	Black may have disrupted the search strategy, to the extent there was one, although this is not clear.
		The (preposterously?) rapid search led by Richard Noone, anthropologist and former	The Noone

		intelligence officer, which apparently ended in just 48 (or 70 (Galleher, p.87) hours, concluding that JT was "not in the jungle," was taken as definitive and likely prevented any further searching, thus disrupting any on-going efforts.	effort was another indication of lack of coherent overall strategy.
Ineffective search tactics were employed	No attempt was made to confine the subject to a searchable area.	Data on search tactics are very limited. However, neither Capt. Mohammad nor any other source refers to trying to confine the subject with blocks or similar techniques. Since searchers should have quickly found out that JT had a propensity to hike, to get lost, and to look for exotic plants, this measure should have been	This error seems likely, but data are lacking.
	Grid (or "line") searching was conducted too early.	taken. It is not clear if grid searching (which is very resource intensive and often destroys clues rather than finding them) was done too soon, but this seems quite possible, given the huge numbers of searchers and the likelihood that line searches would be used just to keep all those people "doing something useful." The only photo of the search shows a line search with very closely spaced police officers. This was apparently taken on 28 March and published on 29 March in the Straits Times, so this is quite early in the search. Of course, this photo could have been staged, as many press shots are.	This error seems very likely, but data are lacking.
	Resources were wasted by repeated searches of the same areas.	Data are lacking on this point, but given the large number of searchers, the many organizations involved, and the difficulty of searching in the jungle, it seems very likely that many later searchers just walked the same trails as previous searchers.	Data are lacking, but this error seems likely.
	General ineffective use of resources.	As will be discussed later, the bigger the search, the more likely that coordination and effective targeting of resources will be lacking.	Data are not present, but this error seems very likely.
	Possible destruction of clues by searching	NASAR states (p. 58) that the "effectiveness of human trackers is lessened if 'sign' has been destroyed by previous searchers." In the JT search, great reliance seems to have been placed on the orang asli trackers, who "proved" that JT did not leave the trails and wander into the jungle. But his sign could have been missed or destroyed by the early hasty search on Days 1-2, (Warren, p. 135) and the trackers "did not really get organized for two days." Also, JT's smooth leather dress shoes or loafers would likely have left little mark on the leaf-littered jungle trails.	Possible crucial error here.
	"Scenario lock" leads to lack of real interest in other scenarios and thus	Per Capt. Mohammad, the Malaysian Army and Police very early on concluded that JT was not in the jungle, due to the evidence of the trailing,	

ineffective search tactics	bloodhound-type dogs, who did not detect a scent trail leaving the MB. But according to expert dog trainer Linda Murphy (see her interview), trailing dogs can and do make errors. NASAR notes (p. 56) that the scent article must be handled carefully, preferably with a coat hanger, and no-one should touch the article. NASAR also notes (p. 8) that searches can be misled by an early focus on erroneous clues. Thus there may have been a classic "cascade of errors" where the search dog evidence on JT not leaving the MB premises on foot, led to the conclusion that he was picked up by car, which led to an erroneous conspiracy theory, which led to the error of lack of commitment to vigorous searching in the jungle.	Possible error here.
Tactics make unwarranted assumptions	Capt. Mohammad's description of the Field Force's search technique shows that their tactics, by design, left large areas of jungle unsearched. This is because the search was conducted on the main jungle trails and on 200 yards on either side of each trail. Thus areas beyond 200 yards were not searched. This technique relied on trackers to spot any sign that JT had strayed from the trail. But if the trackers failed to spot any such sign, or such sign had been obscured by previous searchers, then JT's body could be lying well within the search area, just over 200 yards off a trail.	Possible crucial error here.
Tactics fail due to lack of resources	As noted in the narrative, it might well have taken a regiment of men a month to carefully search the area around the MB, but only a tiny fraction of that trained manpower was made available.	Possible crucial error here.
Tactics not appropriate to the terrain	The famous Chandra Levy case in 2001 in Washington, DC, in which a missing Congressional intern was killed in urban Rock Creek Park in the middle of Washington, is instructive. Levy's body was left on a narrow ledge on a steep slope in the park, and went unobserved by line searchers above and below the slope, who were searching based on faulty instructions to search only within 100 yards of each road in the park (not road and trail). The body was thus not found for over a year. The Metro PD's failure to listen to advice from external, experienced SAR personnel was largely to blame, since MPD was advised to use airscenting dogs which would have almost certainly found the body within hours or days at most, but refused to use this outside technique. In the JT case, it seems quite possible that JT's body could be in a ravine or ledge on a slope difficult to search with line searching or other tactics then available (air scenting dogs were not	Possible crucial problem here.

		available at the time).	
Search coverage was not accurately recorded	It is not clear which areas had been searched, nor how thoroughly. When relieved, search managers are not adequately briefed, leading to duplication and gaps in coverage. Continuous, full documentation of all facts and decisions was neglected, especially in the early phases.	Again there are little data, but discussions with Capt. Rivers, who states he once had the police files, did not seem to indicate that there were detailed records of exactly where was searched and how intensively. His paper makes no mention of such detailed records. It is quite common even today for search organizations to omit proper documentation, as evidenced by my review of supposedly professional records in a number of official missing light aircraft cases in the USA. NASAR recommends (p. 248) that a Documentation Unit collect information on and document all aspects of the search; in my experience this is rarely done. For example, in the famous Steve Fossett disappearance, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) actually destroyed all the radar data for the day in question, claiming they had "not been officially notified" that the largest aviation search in US history was going on. In the JT case, it seems almost certain that at least the early phase hasty search went undocumented. Connie Mengustu stated that "the search was not well organized in the beginning" (Galleher, p. 121).	Possible error here.
There is no effective system for dealing with clues	Searchers are not sensitized to the importance of clue detection. Important clues are missed, destroyed, ignored or misinterpreted. Clues are not documented properly.	Data are lacking. But given that hundreds of untrained searchers were involved, it seems quite possible that this problem arose. Untrained persons often think they are looking for the <u>subject</u> , and do not understand that it is much more likely that a <u>clue</u> is observable, since there are usually many clues and only one subject.	Possible error here.
Search managers lose control, due to external influences	Poor media relations lead to unfavorable coverage; family are involved negatively; psychics divert attention and resources.	Here data are <u>not</u> lacking, for once. The media coverage was not negative, and in fact was quite naively positive. No-one questioned the search techniques or even asked what the strategy was. No one asked the vital question, "Just because this is the biggest search in Malaysian history, is it the <u>best</u> search in Malaysian history?"  And the family did not get much involved onsite, having been discouraged from going to the CH.  But certainly psychics, soothsayers and tipsters had a major negative influence on the case, and even drove some of the search efforts, a major mistake. (JK, p. 187 and 189; Galleher, p. 21 and 102.) It appears that Gen. Black was particularly driven and influenced by soothsayers (especially Peter Hurkos) during his short search and especially for months afterwards, in his investigative efforts. Black used Hurkos as a major investigator in the effort. (Galleher, pp. 82).	Definite error here, re letting psychics dominate the media coverage and even have a major influence on the search operations.

### Inherent Issues with Searches and Emergencies, Especially Massive Ones

NASAR correctly points out classic problems that can occur with searches. But NASAR fails to address the fact that the larger and complex the search, the more likely it is that there will be major difficulties. In my piece, "The Impact of Governmental Distance on Disaster Communications," (*International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*, August 1989, Vol. 7, No. 2, pp. 116-132), my colleagues and I were able to show, with a few reasonable mathematical assumptions, that when a search or disaster response increases by 10-fold in terms of the number of levels, types or different organizations responding, then the complexity and likelihood of poor communication and coordination (as measured by the construct "inter-governmental distance units") of the response goes up by <u>about 150 – fold</u>, or by **more than the square** of the response increase.

What this means is that a massive search, in which organizations respond which do not share common approaches, terminologies, procedures, methods and even languages, the likelihood of coordination difficulties increases exponentially, at more than the square of the input factor.

Applying this concept to the JT search, it is not at all surprising that there would be difficulties in coordination and management of the search resources, given that the responding organizations and individuals ranged from Malaysian army units to Boy Scouts, hospital patients, US Army senior staff, orang asli, policemen, diplomats and gurus to soothsayers. These inherent difficulties must have, of necessity, negatively affected the quality of the search.

It is thus almost a mathematical certainty that this search, just because it was the "largest search in Malaysian history," was not the "best search in Malaysian history."

Another issue that NASAR does not address is the sad fact that many agencies, once they have completed their official search, often take the following attitudes towards grieving family and friends, and other, later searchers:

- 1. We have searched intensively for the subject in our area. We did not find him. Therefore he is not here. Go look somewhere else.
- 2. We cannot devote any more resources to searching in our area, even if you represent to us that there is a moderate to high probability that the subject remains in our jurisdiction. We do not believe your estimates or proofs.
- 3. Our search records are not open to the public. We will not give you copies.
- 4. This is still an open investigation. Therefore, those of you outside of law enforcement cannot have access to confidential files. Furthermore, some of our data are obtained from confidential sources, and hence cannot be revealed now, and perhaps never will never be revealed. And we may well destroy some or all of our files at some point, at our discretion.
- 5. It is quite likely or at least possible that the subject masterminded his own disappearance. Go look elsewhere.
- 6. It is not important to collect, centralize and then carefully preserve the records of the search.

Some of this official behavior is clearly driven by the fact that if later searchers do find the subject in that jurisdiction, the original searchers will look bad.

Applying some of these tendencies to the JT case, it would appear that the Malaysian authorities have in effect embraced attitude 6 above, while US authorities have in effect adopted attitudes 3, 4 and 6 above.

### **Decomposition of Bodies in the Jungle**

A rather unpleasant but necessary item to discuss regarding the search for JT, is the target itself, namely the body of JT in the jungle. (Assuming his body was present in the CH area.) This raises the question of how fast dead bodies decompose in the jungle. This issue is important because if a body decomposes very quickly in the jungle, then that could help explain why the body of JT is located in the CH jungle, but has never been found by a casual passerby, hiker, orang asli, or other person. Conversely, if a body decomposes slowly or is preserved, then that would make it more likely that JT's body is somewhere in Tahiti or China or elsewhere, since in 47 years it has never been found in the CH.

The literature on this is quite clear and rather surprising.

David O. Carter et al. ("Cadaver Decomposition in Terrestrial Ecosystems," *Naturwissenshaften*, 94, (2007) pp. 12-24), produced a remarkable chart (below), summarizing various studies, which shows that a body lying on soil will decompose and lose 90 percent of its mass within just five days. (!) A body lying on plant material will lose about 50 percent of its mass in 25 days.

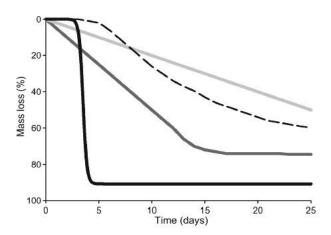


Figure 1. Mass loss curves typically associated with the decomposition of a cadaver on the soil surface (—), buried cadaver (- - -), plant material (—) or fecal (dung) material (—). Cadaver mass loss data was compiled from previous publications: cadaver on soil surface (Payne 1965); buried cadaver (Carter 2005); plant material (Wardle et al. 1994; Coleman et al. 2004); fecal matter (Putman 1983; Esse et al. 2001).

Carter et al. make the following additional relevant points:

- Bodies decay proceeds through six recognized stages: fresh, bloated, active decay, advanced decay, dry and remains.
- Temperature plays a key role in the speed of decay through these stages, and is driven by
  Accumulated Degree Days (ADD). A human body of about 150 pounds subjected to average
  daily temperatures of 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) will reach "advanced decay"
  after just 16 days.
- Carter cites Linnaeus (writing in 1767) as stating that "three flies could consume a horse cadaver as quickly as a lion," and notes the key role that fly oviposition and maggot activity are key drivers of rapid decomposition.
- A study in a neo-tropical rainforest island in Panama showed that a typical square kilometer of ground could expect to receive about 750 kg of weight of mammal cadavers per year, dying from the 5,000 kg average weight of mammal bio-mass on that ground. Thus mammal bones and remains are quite common in the jungle.

Arpad A. Vass ("Beyond the Grave – Understanding Human Decomposition," *Microbiology Today*, Vol. 28, Nov. 2001, p. 190) states that:

- Human decomposition begins within four minutes of death
- The date at which a human body reaches the "skeletonized" stage can be roughly estimated by the formula 1285/x, where x is the average daily temperature in Celsius. So in the CH, where the average daily temperature is about 18 degrees Celsius, this would yield a time to skeletonize of about 71 days.
- Exposure of the body to carnivores [quite likely in the Malaysian jungle] will speed up this process
- Within the first year bones will begin to bleach and may have algae or moss on them [thus making them extremely difficult to see].

Linda Murphy (see interview), a cadaver dog specialist with extensive experience in finding human remains, stated the following:

- Human remains in the JT case, just as in any similar case, will be subject to predation. Large
  predators may move larger bones well away from the death site, while smaller predators such
  as rats, possums or similar will likely move smaller bones a shorter distance. Large bones may
  be moved up to a half a mile or even a mile from the death site.
- Once a bone has been gnawed, cleaned of flesh, bleached and skeletonized, it is unlikely to be bothered or moved again by predators.
- After the bones are skeletonized, they may well be reduced to shards that humans will find almost impossible to distinguish from slivers of wood, even at very close range – even inches.
   Only laboratory testing or field use of cadaver dogs can distinguish bone from wood under such conditions.

Mark Gleason (*The Search for Human Remains in the Search and Rescue Environment*, (Virginia: Search and Rescue Tracking Institute, 2008)), states that:

- There are many factors which make the discovery of human remains difficult.
- Human remains often blend into the baseline landscape, making detection problematic even for search and rescue personnel, especially if untrained.
- Factors affecting the speed of decomposition, in order of importance, include at least the following: temperature, access by insects, burial or not, depth of burial, presence of carnivores, trauma, humidity, rainfall, body size and clothing.
- Scavengers are able to reduce surface deposit corpses to skeleton remains within five to seven days, and sometimes within two days.
- Canines are often important scavengers, and may move portions of the body large distances, up to two miles, from the death site.

My own experience with the famous Steve Fossett case in Nevada/California re bones was as follows:

- Fossett's light plane was found in the Sierra Nevada mountains about 13 months after the disappearance.
- No body or even bones were found inside the plane.
- Small fragments of bone were found near the plane. Searchers were fairly sure these were Fossett's bones, but when they were tested they turned out to be animal bones.
- Eventually a member of our search team found an animal den and tennis shoe over a half a mile
  from the plane wreck. He called the SAR squad and they found some small bone fragments near
  the den. When tested via DNA analysis these were found to be the bones of Steve Fossett.
  Most of his skeleton was never found. It seems likely that bears or other predators had
  scattered the bones over a very wide area.

What does all this mean for the search for JT in 1967? It appears that the following conclusions can be drawn (assuming that JT's body was in the CH area):

- Within days, and thus even within the time of the 11+ day major search effort, it is possible that
  the body of JT could have been so reduced that it would have been hard to recognize, especially
  by inexperienced searchers.
- Later searchers might not have realized that they could be searching for a scattered skeleton, not a recognizable body.
- Parts of the body could perhaps have been scattered across 1 to 4 square miles, again dramatically reducing the likelihood that searchers would recognize a clue.
- Currently, the remains are likely scattered over 1 to 4 square miles, would be mostly unrecognizable to humans, but could probably be located by HRD dogs.

# Analysis of Causes of the JT Disappearance

In reviewing the JT case, I have identified about 25 possible causes for his disappearance. These are discussed below in three categories: causes that can reasonably be eliminated from consideration (there are 11 of these); causes that should be added to the discourse (2 of these); and causes that also remain possibilities (12 of these), even though some of them are unlikely.

## **Causes That Can Be Eliminated**

The table below lists the eleven various causes for the JT disappearance mentioned by the press or other sources, or from other cases, which can reasonably be eliminated from consideration.

	CAUSE SOURCE OF THAT WHY THIS CAUSE CAN REASONABLY BE			
	CAUSE	ALLEGED CAUSE	ELIMINATED	
1.	Tiger attack	Baltimore Sun, cited in Galleher, p. 11, Madi interview; JK, p. 189; The Star, "Search for the Silk King," 2010	Tigers have been spotted in the CH even through the present, but there are no documented cases of tiger attacks on humans in the area since World War II. (Alias Rasid interview; Madi interview.) General Ed Black in 1967 stated that in his search, "We did not come across any animals." (However, according to Galleher, pp. 171-2, the famous newsman Lowell Thomas told her that in the 1920s "persons had been taken by tigers in the CH." But this seems so much earlier that this statement can reasonably be discounted as being relevant to 1967.)  The Malayan Tiger species prefers lowland forest to highland jungle (malayantiger.net/v4/the-malayan-tiger) and are "secretive and very rarely seen."  The Malayan Tiger species requires about 100 square kilometers of jungle per 1 to 2 individual tigers (http://en.wikipedia. org/wiki/Malayan_tiger), hence encountering one is statistically extremely unlikely.	
2.	Leopard attack	Rumors; Madi interview; JK, p. 189; <i>The Star</i> , "Search for the Silk King," 2010	Leopards have been spotted in the CH, but there are no documented cases of leopard attacks on humans. (Alias Rasid interview; Madi interview) There are no leopards in the CH. (Perak Aleyak interview.) Ditto Gen. Black remark above.	
3.	Quicksand	The Star, "Search for the Silk King," 2010	There is no quicksand in the CH. (Alias Rasid interview.)	
4.	Death in a cave	Warren, p. 157	There are no caves in the CH. (Alias Rasid interview.)	
5.	Falling into a well, borehole, agricultural narrow well or similar	JK, p. 198	There were no such wells or holes in the CH in 1967. (Alias Rasid interview.)	
6.	Falling into an orang asli (aborigine) pit	Warren, pp. 11, 157 and 230; JK, p. 186	Such traps were not found in the search, and were not present then or now in the	

		I	
	trap, punji stake pit		CH. The orang asli did not use such traps.
	trap, or similar		(Interviews with Capt. Mohammad, Alias
	<b>-</b> 11		Rasid, and Gerard and Jay Richard.)
7.	Falling into "an	JK, p. 186, citing news	Such traps were not found in the search,
	aboriginal animal trap	reports	and were not present then or now in the
	that snapped shut" on		CH. The orang asli did not use such
	JT		"snapping" traps. (Interviews with Capt.
			Mohammad, Alias Rasid, and Gerard and
			Jay Richard.)
8.	Being killed	Richard interview; The Star,	Orang asli (aborigines) are very peaceful
	accidentally or on	"Search for the Silk King,"	and very unlikely to have intentionally killed
	purpose by orang asli	2010	any outsider, especially a Westerner. No
			statement or even rumors of such an attack
			have ever emerged, but some discussion of
			a murder or even an accident would have
			almost certainly come forward if it had
			happened. (Gerard and Jay Richard
			interview.) Anthropologist and ex-
			intelligence officer Richard Noone, with
			excellent contacts among the orang asli,
			found no evidence of an accident or cover-
			up, in his investigation very shortly after the
			disappearance.
9.	Suicide due to failing	Possible cause in other cases	JK (pp. 150-3) makes it clear that JT's
٦.	business or major	1 ossible cause in other cases	business was doing well and was profitable,
	debts		and that he was not worried about this
	debts		aspect of his life. Warren (p. 68) states that
			•
			JT was a millionaire, through his business and via an inheritance.
			After the house museum and its contents
			went to the JT foundation, the remaining
			estate value was still \$1.1 million, a very
			large sum in 1967. (Clip file of O. Wells
			Foster) (However, the estate administration
			papers from 1974 indicate the actual value
			of the US estate was only \$180,000 USD.)
10.	Murder or remote	Likely cause in other cases	The primary beneficiary of the death of JT
	assassination		was his nephew, Henry Thompson III, a
	committed by the		stockbroker in New York. As discussed
	main beneficiary of		earlier, his behavior after the
	the death		disappearance, and his remoteness from
			the subject and scene of the crime, make it
			reasonable to rule out this POI.
11.	Murder or remote	Likely cause in other cases	As discussed earlier, the former spouse of
	assassination	,	JT was so sick and incapacitated in the US at
	committed by the		the time of the disappearance that she was
	divorced spouse of the		virtually in a coma, and JT was distraught
Ь	a	<u> </u>	The causing in a contra, and Tr was distribustit

subject	about this. (FBI documents from their
	investigation in 1967 confirm that JT's wife
	Patricia Maury Thraves was very sick and
	had a tumor.) Hence this POI can
	reasonably be ruled out.

### Causes Not Mentioned by the Press or Police That Should Be Added

There are two causes that should be added to the discussion: friends and associates, and various jungle elements. These are described below.

**Friends and Associates**. In virtually any case in which there is a suspicious disappearance, murder or manslaughter, the first suspects are almost always the victim's immediate family, friends and associates who were present at the time and location immediately before the disappearance.

Amazingly, in the JT case, neither the police nor the press ever seemed to seriously consider JT's associates in the Cameron Highlands, immediately before the disappearance, as likely suspects, apparently because of their high social standing. Furthermore, none of the subsequent books or articles (except Martha Galleher) seem to even consider this obvious point. The possible suspects or at least POIs, operating individually or in concert, would include:

- Dr. T.G. Ling (Tien Gi Ling), host of JT at the MB, and long-time friend of JT. He was Chinese, a chemist, educated at Cornell University, fled the Communist Chinese in 1949, and took up residency and prospered in Singapore. (Warren, p.16.) He was 69 in 1967 and died in 1992 (De Souza, p. 118).
- Mrs. Helen Dalling Ling, wife of Dr. Ling, hostess of JT at the MB, also a long-time friend. She
  was an American from Ohio, met her husband at Cornell, and ran a successful antique shop in
  Singapore. She was 66 in 1967. (De Souza, p. 120.)
- Connie (Constance) Mangskau, long-time friend (but apparently not a lover) of JT, staying with him at the MB. She had an English father and Thai mother. She met JT when she was an interpreter for the Allies after the end of WW II. Later she was the owner of one of Bangkok's most successful antique shops. She was 60 in 1967. (De Souza, pp. 115-16.)
- Dr. Einner Ammundsen, JT's doctor and friend since the 1940s, coincidentally present in Tanah Rata, apparently at Ye Olde Smokehouse, at the time of the disappearance. (Capt. Rivers ms., p. 2.; De Souza, p. 117.) He helped organize the initial "hasty" search. He died in 1999. (De Souza, p. 117.)
- Sven Gonge, manager of the East Asiatic Company, friend of JT, present in Tanah Rata at the time of the disappearance (*Straits Times* and Capt. Rivers ms., p. 2.) He helped organize the initial search, along with Dr. Ammundsen.
- Edward Pollitz, a retired American businessman, active in Singapore and advising the Economic
  Development Board there. He had contacted JT and asked for a business meeting re developing
  batiks in Singapore, scheduled for the day after the disappearance. (Thus he might know of JT's
  whereabouts on Sunday.) He is the same person who supposedly saw JT in Tahiti some months

- later. (Thus diverting suspicion away from himself? Unlikely but perhaps possible.) He was 67 years old in 1967 and died of leukemia a year later. (De Souza, p. 120.)
- Charles U. Sheffield, who took over management of the Thai Silk Company and "suspiciously" found the second will of JT in the company safe, among blueprints, two years after the disappearance (Galleher, p. 161). Sheffield's view was that JT disappeared as a result of an accident in the jungle. (De Souza, p. 114.) Sheffield died in 1973. (De Souza, p. 114)
- Possibly others.

Any of these persons could conceivably have had a falling out with JT, or accidently caused his death. However, arguments against these persons being suspects include:

- The fact that few persons knew about JT's travel plans
- Lack of signs of a physical struggle at the MB or elsewhere
- The fact that Dr. Ling reported the disappearance quite promptly
- The lack of apparent motive, murder weapon, body or other physical evidence.

It would appear that this possibility should be considered as a cause (number 12), although the likelihood is remote.

Various Jungle Elements. The Malaysian jungle is a hazardous place, and even the press was not experienced and imaginative enough to mention all the possible dangers. Col. J.P. Cross, a lifelong Gurkha officer, in his book, *Jungle Warfare: Experiences and Encounters* (Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press (or Casemate Publishers), 2008, pp. 17-18), referring specifically to Malaysia, states that in his experience as a jungle fighter, one of his biggest fears was falling trees and tree limbs. He says that "almost every [British Army] unit serving in Malaya had fatalities from falling trees and branches" and that "in primary jungle I reckon that a large tree falls within earshot once every thirty six hours" (!). He notes that in the dark, you can hear the tree start to fall, due to creaking of the rotten wood, but that there is nowhere to run, since you cannot tell where to go to escape.

Cross also notes that wild bees and hornets "are killers" which can suffocate and sting anything that moves. Of course hornets can kill by numerous stings and by anaphylactic shock.

On this point, the website http://www.vespa-bicolor.net/main/vespid/vespa-tropica.htm states that this observer has seen massive hornet nests up to five feet tall and five feet wide in Singapore, just south of Malaysia. It is quite possible that JT was headed for the "hornet's nest" location east of the MB.

Cross also notes that ticks, centipedes, red ants, hairy caterpillars, scorpions and even leeches are lesser jungle threats, but can still incapacitate.

I therefore throw all these various "jungle element items" into a cause category (number 13) that could be considered as "possible and moderately unlikely."

## **Other Causes That Remain Possibilities**

There are about eleven other causes (numbers 14—25) which have been identified by the press, police and observers, which do remain as possible causes of the disappearance. These are discussed in the table below.

Cause	Arguments Pro	Arguments Con	Conclusion
14. Kidnapping by a gang or person for money	"Kidnapper gangs [are] known to operate in the CHthey prey on wealthy businessmen, seizing them for ransom," <i>New York Times</i> , March 27, 1967, cited in Galleher, p. 3 (published on the 28 <sup>th</sup> , see the annexes for a copy).	Kidnapping was "unlikely" because only JT's "closest friends knew" of his visit to the CH, and there was no ransom note received. (Galleher, p. 11)	Unlikely but possible
	Also Horgan (interview) mentions kidnapper gangs.  JT was rumored to have been involved with the Golden Triangle drug trade and this led to the kidnapping and disappearance. (Capt. Mohammad and Madi interviews)	Cikgo "The Teacher" states in his interview that kidnapping gangs were not present in the CH in 1967.  No actual evidence of JT's involvement with drug trafficking has ever emerged.	
	Rumors have persisted for years that the CIA was supporting certain tribes in the secret war in Laos by buying their opium production, then making money by selling the drugs. (Personal knowledge of the author.) A movie, Air America, was even made about this. One USAID official, Ron Richenbach, stated that he witnessed Air America, a CIA front, being used for this purpose, and that he participated. (www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/drugs/archive/gunsdrugscia.html) JT would have been well placed to participate in this activity.	Ditto above	
15. Kidnapping for political purposes by a Communist Terrorist (CT) group	According to the <i>Straits Times</i> (see annexes), CT gangs had violent incidents on Thai/Malay border, about 90 miles north of Tanah Rata, in August 1966 (10 of 15 members of a joint Thai/Malay security patrol were killed near Betong, Thailand); March 18, 1967 (clash with 10 CTs near Betong); and March 20, 1967 (clash in the Kelantan border area, with an unknown number of CTs who outnumbered police).  US State Department confidential memos and newsletters listed these CT gangs as a real threat, although on the border, not specifically in the CH. (See annex)  Warren (p. 47) says that a Thai official stated in July 1968 that the CTs on the Thai/Malaysian	"according to other sources, no known Communist bands operate in the area," New York Times, March 27, 1967, cited in Galleher, p. 4 and published on the 28 <sup>th</sup> , see the annexes for a copy)	Unlikely but possible

16. Kidnapping or assassination for political reasons by the CIA or other intelligence services	border were organized by Pridi, JT's long time friend, who served for five months as Prime Minister of Thailand but was ousted in a coup and fled to China. Warren is perhaps hinting that a meeting might have been set up between JT and Pridi in March 1967?  JT had angered the CIA and Thai intelligence services in the 1960s by his increasing stand against US involvement in Vietnam (JK pp. 7-9).  Earlier, in the late 1940s and perhaps into the 1950s, JT had greatly offended the French intelligence and diplomatic services by his material and extensive assistance to resistance groups in Cambodia and elsewhere in SE Asia. (Archives II, see annexes) A formal complaint	Kidnapping a major figure seems an unlikely course of action for any intelligence agency, which would want to remain covert.  (But perhaps a secret meeting at which JT died, even of natural causes, might lead to a cover-up in order to eliminate embarrassment. See discussion below.)	Possible but very unlikely
	by the French government to the US DoS apparently was ignored.	Horgan (interview) disputes JK's assertion that JT was publicly and vigorously opposed to the war, which is quite odd, since Horgan is cited in JK (pp. 7-9) as a major source on this point.	
17. Assassination, or kidnapping followed by assassination, by business rivals in Bangkok, likely Madame Sarit and her clique	Madame Sarit was a "vileruthless" woman and business rival of JT who wanted to "crush" JT and his company. (JK, p. 153)  Journalists often know more than they can prove and state baldly in writing, and hence JK may be hinting here that he has reasonable but not printable proof.  Madame Sarit was the widow of Field Marshal Sarit, once a Prime Minister of Thailand, who was also an enemy of JT.	It seems unlikely that such an assassination would be or could be arranged far from Bangkok in a remote area, when urban areas such as Bangkok, Penang and Singapore were all possible.  No actual evidence for this assassination theory has been presented by any author or analyst, other than speculation.  This theory does not think through or deal with all the practical problems that an assassin based in or commissioned from Bangkok would encounter in killing JT in the CH. These include at least the following: A. find out when JT was leaving for the CH; B. rapidly make his own travel plans in a way that would intersect with JT but with enough "opsec" (operational security) so that later police investigation would not uncover any suspicious travel; C. penetrate the tiny Tanah Rata community without being noticed; D. create a surveillance point overlooking the MB that was not noticed by later JT searchers, but was effective; E. plan a timed strike against JT, who didn't even know his own schedule for the weekend; F. make the strike during	Possible but unlikely

		a tiny window of time when JT was away from the MB but was not observed by the servants, residents and persons near the MB; G. assassinate JT in a quiet way, so no shot or sound of a struggle was heard; H. successfully assassinate JT, a trained killer himself (albeit an elderly one), without getting wounded or killed; I. dispose of the body quickly and successfully, with little or few local resources, so that it was not found by searchers and no trace of the murder scene was found either; J. dispose of the murder weapon; K. exit the CH without being noticed; L. never reveal this sensational story over the course of many years; M. never have any other witting person boast about the feat or reveal any details or hint of the assassination.  These items all add up to a pretty tall order!	
18. Lost in the jungle and/or died of exposure or accident (e.g. broken leg, foot or neck) in the jungle, likely outside the main search area	Paul Coakley of JungleCrafty provides an excellent video on how easy it is to get lost in the modern Malaysian jungle, at: youtube.com/watch?v=Yu1_HLiEAz8. In the recent case he partially re-creates, a couple went on a "main" jungle trail they were familiar with, got lost within ½ kilometer, decided to go down the ridge they were on and follow a drainage, and were found a day later, "miles away" from the point they got lost. Coakley also notes how easy it is to get injured in the jungle, and advises strongly against going in alone, failing to tell friends where you are heading, or forgetting to take survival equipment, especially a parang – three major mistakes made by JT.  Coakley, in a separate video on "PSK: Search and Rescue," at: youtube.com/watch?v= x_3gY1d_4lA&list=UUa3ia1bE4EOt_vJ6InpLeQ states that all the orang asli he has met, even those with extensive jungle experience, "all" admit to getting lost in the jungle at some point, and that even the orang asli cannot easily track a victim who has been lost in the jungle, due to the tremendous "clutter" in that environment. See esp. times 16:34 and 8:05 in that video. He also notes a recent disappearance in the jungle, in which a hiker in a large group got separated, went off in error on a game trail, made a camp, then wandered off. The orang asli were not able to track him	JT "learned about jungle survival in his basic training on Catalina Island for OSS and later in Ceylon. He taught me before our Himalayan trek how to find civilization in case we became separated." (Galleher, p. 4)  Tracks or trace of JT would have been found where he left the trail, at his death site, or in between, by the orang asli, the trailing dogs, or the numerous searchers. (Richard Noone's conclusion; Capt. Mohammad interview, Madi interview, Galleher's conclusion, De Souza's conclusion)  No trace of JT's scent leading off the grounds of the MB was found by the 3 trailing, bloodhound-type dogs. It was this evidence that convinced the Malaysian police early on that JT left the MB by car, not on foot. (Capt. Mohammad interview)	Moderately likely

	after that, and his body was never found. The mystical powers of tracking attributed to orang asli by some writers are thus negated. Coakley is a recognized expert on Malaysian jungle survival, living, gear and SAR.  JT, if lost, was likely to "follow a stream" to find a village or civilization (De Souza, p. 43, quoting JT's friend and colleague Gen. Black). But within ½ mile of the MB, to the north, and within ¾ mile to the WSW of the MB, there are drainages in the next province, across a "continental divide," that lead away from inhabited areas. It may be this provincial "continental divide" that is the "ridge" referred to by APC Khan, the officer in charge of the search, when he said on March 29 that "if Jim wandered beyond the ridge, it could take several more days to find him" (De Souza, p. 28). De Souza (ibid.) calls this area "vastly impenetrable."  The "weather is very cold at night in the CH," Galleher, p. 12.  The "temperature drops into the 40s (F) at that time of year in the CH," Warren, p. 33.  JT's knowledge of jungle existence may not have been as expert as portrayed by many writers, since he did not have in-depth, long term experience in the jungle (see earlier comments re General Sir Peter de la Billiere's SAS fighting in the jungle).		
19. Heart attack "due to high altitude" (Galleher p. 11) or ill health	JT was not in good shape and could have suffered an attack.	The CH altitude is 4000-6000 feet, (1600 to 2200 meters, De Souza, p. 18) not generally considered high. According to Google Earth, the altitude of the MB is 5118 feet above sea level.	Possible but not very likely
20. Gall bladder attack, leading perhaps to collapse and death from exposure	JT suffered from gallbladder attacks, had left his pills behind, needed a gall bladder operation soon, and his first attack made him "feel like he was dying."  According to mayoclinic.org, a gallbladder attack can "last from a few minutes to several hours" with "sudden and rapidly intensifying pain in the abdomenback or right shoulder" that can be so bad that the patient cannot sit still or find a comfortable position.	If JT had an attack on a trail, he would almost certainly have been found in the extensive search. If he had had an attack in the jungle off-trail, he would probably have been found in the extensive search. (Capt. Mohammad interview)	Moderately likely
21. Suicide due to depression	JT was not in a positive frame of mind, was worn out, was in ill health, his ex-wife was very sick, and he had had a disturbing row with the Thai government over his antiques collection	JT's personal physician and close friend Dr. Ammundsen "ruled out suicide."	Possible but unlikely

	several years before, leading him to sell off his beloved Thai antiques collection, and leading to him change his will, thus not leaving the	JT was "not in the least depressed" when he left the MB (Galleher, p. 13).	
	remaining foreign antiques and houses to the Siam Society (or Thai government). (All four source books.)		
	If it is true (per Galleher) that JT had cyanide pills beside his bed in Bangkok in case of a Communist takeover, then he clearly was comfortable with the idea of suicide.		
22. Intentional disappearance to start a new life elsewhere	JT was not happy with his life, was depressed, had funds to start elsewhere, and perhaps missed the excitement of his OSS life on the run behind enemy lines.	JT left his passport and apparently his wallet behind, and was so forgetful about the entire CH trip that he did not get the proper shots or get the right financial clearance, and he only had about \$100 on his person in the CH — this does not seem like a person carefully planning a disappearance. There is no reported evidence of JT's extensive personal funds going missing just before or after the disappearance.	Possible but very, very unlikely
	JT was perhaps sighted in Tahiti by a credible witness (Pollitz).	Pollitz's sighting is possible but not convincing and certainly not conclusive.	
	JT was tired of his existence.	JT's life in Bangkok was pretty glamorous and he knew it.	
	JT was hidden in the MB on Sunday night, then smuggled out of the MB by Dr. Ling the morning after the so-called "disappearance."	It seems apparent that the MB was searched on Sunday evening.	
	He went to a clandestine meeting, and then left Malaysia and Thailand to start a new life elsewhere. This disappearance and the KTW murder were tied into the Nugan Hand Bank scandal, via the involvement in all these of Gen. Ed Black. (according to Donald Smith, researcher from RI)	There is no sighting with any evidence, after the Pollitz incident in Tahiti. Thompson was so well known to so many people, and his case so famous, that it seems very likely that he would have been quickly spotted where-ever he began his new life.	
		The Nugan Hand Bank was founded six years after JT disappeared and KTW was murdered.	
23. Voluntary meeting by JT with persons unknown in a car in the CH, which led to JT leaving the area and then dying or being killed outside the search area	Trailing dogs convinced the Malaysian police early on that JT did not enter the jungle, and that he left the MB hilltop by car.  Rumored sightings of limousines, cars with Thai license plates, cars with tall American soldiers inside, caravans of cars, helicopters, etc. in Tanah Rata on the Sunday disappearance day, all indicate some form of meeting and/or conspiracy.	Trailing dogs can make mistakes. This is more likely if there were multiple trails leading away from the MB, as stated by Gerard Richard (see his interview). This mistake in the JT case could have led search leaders to not focus enough on the jungle search, thus perhaps missing the body.	Possible but unlikely

		Special, careful handling of the	
		items given to trailing dogs is	
		important (see Linda Murphy	
		interview); incorrect procedures can	
		lead to errors.	
		The Malaysian police believed that	
		JT voluntarily entered a car at the	
		edge of the MB grounds, at the top	
		of the access road. This broke the	
		scent trail, so the trailing dogs could	
		not detect JT beyond that point.	
		But this belief assumes that a car (or	
		truck) could come up the access	
		road without being heard or spotted	
		by the MB servants or by the Lings,	
		which seems unlikely (although	
		possible). Cars were noisy in 1967 (I	
		own a 1968 Mustang, so I know),	
		trucks were noisier, and the access	
		road is fairly steep, thus making a	
		noisy approach more likely. Also,	
		the area at the top of access road is	
		small, and would have required a	
		car to do a 3-cornered turn, thus	
		creating more noise quite near the	
		Bungalow. JT getting into the car	
		would have also perhaps created	
		the noise of a door slamming or at	
		least shutting. Nothing like all this	
		was reported by the servants or the	
		Lings. The Lings might not have	
		heard anything because they were	
		truly napping, but they did	
		reportedly hear JT drag a chair, and	
		later heard what were apparently	
		his footsteps.	
		This rootsteps.	
		The sightings of suspicious cars and	
		helicopters are generally promoted	
		by the same people who think that	
		psychics and soothsayers have a	
		useful contribution to make to the	
		case.	
		Manual a Analysis of the allies and the	
		Would a trained intelligence officer	
		and excellent businessman go to a	
		secret meeting without even taking	
		his wallet? Very unlikely.	
		When and how did JT schedule his	
		supposed secret meeting, with no	
		cell phones in those days?	
24. JT was struck	This story arose in Ringlet, and was the	This story did not come out until	
and killed by a truck	reported deathbed confession of the Chinese	many years after the disappearance,	Possible but
on a road near the	truck driver who killed JT.	and no-one has tracked down the	extremely
MB, then his body		son who supposedly heard the	unlikely
_,			

was transported	The "bones of JT" resulted from this accident,	confession, and this son's name,	
outside the search	and were found and then held in the Tanah	and the name of the truck driver, is	
area and buried	Rata District Medical Office.	unknown.	
area ana banea	Nata District Wicarcar Office.	dikilowii.	
		The "bones" did exist but the	
		relevant and very credible District	
		Medical Officer (who saw and had	
		custody of the bones for a while;	
		see interview section) states that he	
		was not sure the bones were	
		human, that he knows of no	
		identifiable link between JT and the	
		bones, and that the bones were	
		found far north of Tanah Rata,	
		where the roads were very poor to	
		non-existent in 1967. (Thus an	
		unlikely place for the culprit to drive	
		to in order to hide the body.) The	
		bones later disappeared in an office	
		move, and cannot be examined	
		now.	
		"The Teacher" states in his	
		interview that trucks were very rare	
		in 1967 in the area, did not drive	
		fast, and needed permission to go	
		up to the British military bungalows.	
		It also seems likely that JT would	
		have heard a noisy truck coming on	
		the very quiet road, and would have	
		had time to get off the pavement (it	
		was paved in 1967) in time to avoid	
		being struck.	
25. Snake bite	There were about 2200 snake bites per year	The rate of snake bite is only 0.3 per	
(or snake bite	recorded in Malaysia between 1958 and 1980.9	100,000 population <sup>12</sup>	
resulting in	recorded in Malaysia between 1990 and 1980.	200,000 population	Possible but
incapacitation and	In the early 1960s, it was found that 74% of the	Of snake bites, only a minority	statistically
death from	snake bites in Malaysia occurred in the four	portion are venomous, since only 17	quite unlikely
exposure)	northern states of Peninsular Malaysia. 10	of the 105 land snakes in Malaysia	quite utilikely
2200410/	Tanah Rata is just a few kilometers south of	are venomous. 13	
	two of these northern states.	a.c. remonitudo.	
		Among poisonous snake bites in	
	Most snake bites in Malaysia occur between 6	Malaysia, only a small portion result	
	pm and midnight, <sup>11</sup> a time when JT was	in envenomation, since most bites	
	possibly walking.	are "dry" defensive bites. 14	
	L1		

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Dr. Tan, Nget Hong, Medical Faculty, University of Malaysia, "The Management of Snake Bites in Malaysia," www.tanngethong.com

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> K. S. Chew et al., "A Five Year Retrospective Review of Snakebite Patients Admitted to a Tertiary Teaching Hospital in Malaysia," *International Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 2011; 4: 41. <sup>11</sup> Chew et al., ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Dr. Tan, ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Chew et al., ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> H. A. Reid et al., "Epidemiology of Snake Bite in North Malaya," *British Medical Journal*, 1963; 1(5336): 992-7.

Even for venomous bites, only a few are fatal. <sup>15</sup> For example, for the Malayan Pit Viper, the most common bite, there were 1136 recorded cases in West (peninsular) Malaysia from 1965 to 1971, and of these, only 4 bites were fatal. Similarly for Asian common cobras in that region and time, there were 112 cases and only 3 reported fatalities. <sup>16</sup>

Time of death (in the unlikely event that the patient dies) after a viper bite averages 64.6 hours, with a range of 5 to 240 hours, <sup>17</sup> so if JT was bitten, he would likely live long enough to call out for help to searchers, if in the right area, or move closer to the MB. For common cobras, the average time of (unlikely) death is less, at 8.4 hours, with a range of 0.3 to 60 hours. <sup>18</sup>

There are poisonous snakes in the CH, but these are very shy and unlikely to bite. (Alias Rasid interview; Perak Aleyak interview.)

### **Source Analysis**

### **Outcome of US FOIA Requests and National Archives Research**

It is clear from various sources that considerable information should be available from official US sources and files on the JT disappearance. For example, Galleher states (p. 5) that "an FBI agent came to my house around March 30 [1967]...to inform the family that the FBI was actively investigating the [JT] case." This agent seemed poorly informed about SE Asian geography and politics. But clearly a report and file should exist.

Similarly, it is clear that substantial files should exist on the case at the CIA, US Department of State, US Army and other US institutions, and many if not most of these files should by now have been transferred

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> World Health Organization, *Guidelines for the Clinical Management of Snake Bite in the South East Asia Region*, (WHO Reprint, 1999) p. 10, specifically referring to Malaysia.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Dr. Tan, ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Dr. Tan, ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Dr. Tan, ibid.

to the National Archives. <sup>19</sup> For example, in a 1968 letter to Galleher (p. 146), Graham Martin of the US Department of State says in writing that, "I followed all the extensive traffic daily [on the JT disappearance] and actually drafted some of the messages including those designed to ensure the full mobilization of Malaysian resources to mount the most thorough physical search of the area it was possible to conduct." Horgan (*Bangkok World*, p. 62) supports this view, and states that, "Henry Cabot Lodge, the Massachusetts Brahmin U.S. ambassador in Vietnam, demanded daily reports of his missing pal's status…"

In fact, research at the National Archives II location and FOIAs to the various relevant agencies have revealed an amazing lack of this kind of information, and the FOIA request to the FBI received a response that relevant information was "destroyed in 1978" and is no longer available! (The annexes contain the FOIA requests and the responses.)

Similarly, a FOIA request to the CIA yielded only documents on JT's OSS and military record during WW II, with no documents later than his OSS resignation in 1947. Yet JK (p. 191) states that his confidential sources indicate the following:

- There is "a large classified personnel file at the agency [CIA] archives" which has still never been released to the public or to the National Archives.
- This file shows that the CIA "leadership felt it had to take on the case" of the JK disappearance, and investigate it (ibid.).
- Joseph Lazarsky, who was working for the CIA in 1967 in Jakarta, "sent cables throughout the agency trying to find out any information about Thompson's disappearance" (ibid).
- Campbell James, "another longtime CIA operative" and "friend of JT's," tried to track down agency knowledge on the disappearance (ibid.).
- Robert Jantzen, CIA Chief of Station in Bangkok, "closely followed the case...essentially serving
  as the point man." Jantzen himself traveled down to the Cameron Highlands to conduct his own
  search for Thompson, accompanied by several aides, and Jantzen put out an all-points bulletin
  to all station chiefs for any CIA information about Thompson (ibid.).
- Richard Noone, the jungle expert, "allegedly made a private report to the agency" about the disappearance (ibid.).

Of course all this does not necessarily indicate some kind of Hollywood-esque widespread conspiracy, or imply that JT was kidnapped by the CIA or some other intelligence service, or that JT's disappearance couldn't have been a simple accident in the jungle. But it does seem to indicate that there were sensitive matters connected to JT, his activities, and/or the search that made (and make) it likely that de-classification officers in the relevant agencies have been reluctant to release the files, and in fact have intentionally destroyed certain files.

Speculating here, it seems possible that the following reasons are inhibiting the release of 50 year old information by official US sources:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> All relevant records are apparently located at the National Archives II building in College Park, Maryland, rather than at the National Archives building near the Mall in downtown Washington, DC.

- The King of Thailand, the longest reigning monarch on Earth, is still alive as of this writing and was alive and was King in 1967. Though now feeble, he is still a power in Thailand, his succession is quite problematic, and the US is a close ally of Thailand. Anything about US and/or Thompson activities in Thailand during the King's reign, such as supporting rebel groups in neighboring countries, could be quite embarrassing to US-Thai relations, and could perhaps shed light on US "sources and methods" and groups accessed which still have relevance today. Persecution for the crime of "lèse majesté" (violating the majesty of royalty) is very widely used in Thailand today to pursue anyone who offends or criticizes the King, the royal family, and even the government in power. The US government certainly does not want to be accused of or associated in any way with explicit or implied criticism of royal or distinguished Thai political figures, past or present.
- Similarly, simply the official acknowledgement of the (likely) fact that the most famous American in Thai history, whose company is still a mainstay of the Thai economy, was for a time an agent (but not officer) of the CIA, would be quite embarrassing to the Thai government, and would call into question its ability to control its own affairs.
- According to respondent Cikgo, the King of Thailand arrived in the CH for a visit, only three
  weeks after the JT disappearance. (This statement has not been independently verified.) Thus
  some unscrupulous rumor monger might make a connection between the two events.
- It has been suggested that JT, through his many connections and sources, had knowledge of how the current King of Thailand came to power, and who assassinated his predecessor this is still a mystery.<sup>20</sup> If any of the CIA or US DoS papers refer to this topic, even speculatively, this could prove embarrassing to US-Thai relations.

### **Information Obtainable from Malaysian Sources**

I have undertaken work in Malaysia on the JT case, and can report the following re caches of records there:

- The Tanah Rata municipal library has no "morgue" or file on JT or the case, except for 1-2 recent retrospective news articles
- The Tanah Rata and Brinchang Police state that they have no records of the case, and in fact
  destroy all missing persons cases more than 15-20 years old. They also never heard of the case

  the most famous disappearance of an individual in Malaysian history!
- The Kuala Lumpur Police Museum staff state that the Museum does not have any files on the case
- The Tanah Rata District Medical Office has no information on the case, and has also lost the reputed "bones of Jim Thompson," although the District Medical Officer from the right period

<sup>20</sup> King Ananda was found dead in his bed in the Grand Palace on 9 June 1946, with a pistol lying nearby. Three palace employees were eventually arrested, tried and executed. Prime Minister Pridi (a close friend of JT) was accused of complicity, and a coup against Pridi was then successful. To this day it is not really clear whether the death was a suicide, accident or murder -- and if a murder, who was the perpetrator(s). (Warren, pp. 46-7.)

- doubts that there is any connection between the bones at the DMO and the JT case (see the Interviews section).
- The Malaysian National Archives has no files on the case, but does have old copies of 1967 newspapers, which were copied for this report.

Note that just because an official states that no records exist does not constitute absolute proof that this statement is true, but it appeared to me that the above-listed sources were not fruitful for further research.

Further research might be fruitful in Malaysia in:

- The files of the Malaysian Army, including the Dayak Rangers, which reportedly provided two Rangers and a search dog to the JT search (Rivers ms., p. 3).
- The files of the Gurkha unit which reportedly assisted in the search effort. (See the Capt. Mohammad interview in the Interviews annex. He does not recall the name or number of this unit, but it was stationed in Malaysia at the time. It was likely a British Army unit.)
- The detailed Malaysian police files on the case, which Captain Rivers states were in his possession but which he gave or lent to "a lawyer" at Rivers' 2010 presentation on the case, to an audience in Ipoh. He does not recall the name or contact information of the lawyer. If found, this cache would likely be the most valuable single source of information on the case, in terms of search procedures and various clues and lines of inquiry. Captain Rivers states that he obtained the files from a former senior police officer who worked on the case. Rivers states he then used the files to write his manuscript presented in 2010. (See the Rivers interview in the annexes.) (The reasons these files could be useful include: A. modern researchers might spot something missed at the time; B. the files might make clear exactly what search techniques were used and where; C. after scenarios for disappearance in the jungle are created in a modern analysis, the files might be usable to provide "credit" in various areas, for searches that already occurred there in 1967 via the "spreading the peanut butter" probability technique, and allowing for POD (probability of detection).)
- Other files collected by various units of the Malaysian police which may have ended up in other locations. These might include the Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Police Field Force (PFF), etc. (Rivers ms., p. 4.)
- The "28 page diary of ASP [Asst. Superintendent of Police] Ismail" which clearly relates very directly to the case. (Rivers ms., p. 4.)
- Royal Malaysian Air Force files, since this organization provided helicopters to participate in the search (Rivers ms., p. 2).
- The files of any other Malaysian organizations that participated in the search.
- Map repositories at the Malaysian Office of the Director of National Mapping or other locations that might possibly provide topo maps of the search area from the exact year of 1967. (A detailed 1963 topo map has been located and is shown in the map section of this report.)

### **Information Possibly Obtainable from Other Sources**

It might be possible that further information on the case could be obtained from the following sources:

- The medical files on JT held by Dr. Richard B. Capps of Chicago, JT's doctor who supplied information to the FBI shortly after the disappearance.
- The British Public Records Office (PRO), since Britain maintained a close relationship with Malaysia, and there was apparently a British Army RAMC (Royal Army Medical Corps) unit and base in the search area, and also a "Col. Scott" commanded the "British Army units stationed in the CH area in 1967." (See the Rasid and Aleyak interviews in the annexes.)
- Records of British military units active in the area. Rivers (his ms., p. 2) states that "British Army helicopters" participated in the JT search. He also states (p. 3) that a "small British military policy sergeant and detachment" were asked to participate early on in the search, and that staff and convalescents of the "British Military Hospital" in the area participated in the JT search (ibid.).
- Unit histories of other British Army or Gurkha units that participated in the search.
- Files or memoirs of Brigadier General Edwin "Ed" Black, US general who participated in the search and was a friend of JT, (Rivers ms., p. 2.) or General Black's aides, descendants or associates. (However, Horgan (interview) seems to think that there is not likely to be a trove of information in Gen. Black's files.)
- Files of Dr. T.G. or Helen Ling, Connie Mangskau or other associates from Thailand.
- Medical files of JT in the possession of Dr. Einner Ammundsen, personal doctor to JT, who was present in Tanah Rata when the disappearance occurred (Rivers ms., p. 2).
- Files of the Thai police and intelligence services.
- Files of the US Department of State (due to US Embassy in Thailand reports on the search) or Defense, CIA or FBI, which all apparently generated reports on the case. For example, the FBI files received to date via FOIA refer to "25 Department of State cables dated between 3/27/67 to 4/28/67" which were attached to the FBI memo of 3 May 1967 on the JT case. These US DoS cables constitute one of the top three major missing caches in the case.
- Files of Martha Galleher, niece of JT, who states, "I decided to keep a file on the case...as a representative of the Thompson family..." (Galleher, p. 6). These contain press clippings and letters, cables and reports from US Department of State and others, which are cited and partially quoted in her book, but might have clues she overlooked.
- Documents collected by JK as part of his book research. This author, an experienced researcher associated with the Council on Foreign Relations who has written over 700 articles and several books, stated in emails to me that he had in his files some original police reports on the case from 1967. Of course I requested copies of this valuable, possibly priceless, information, and he said he "would look." Then Mr. Kurlantzick stopped returning my email queries. These police reports constitute perhaps the second most important un-reviewed cache of material on the case.
- Further interviews with descendants and relatives of JT and his murdered sister.

- The Pennsylvania State Police file on the Katharine Thompson Wood case. The cold case officer indicated that a file exists, it fills an entire box, the case is still open, but the file could not be fully revealed to me. (However, the cold case officer did discuss the case with me, referring to two binders from the file; see interview annex.)
- Schedule C and other tax returns and financial information on the firm Canine Caterers, Inc., for the years of about 1964 to 1972. This firm was jointly owned by Katharine Thompson Wood and her son Harry Wood, with each holding 150 shares, and possibly financial dealings or disputes over the company may have been involved in her murder and his suicide.
- Map repositories at the Royal Geographical Society, British PRO, US Defense Mapping Agency, or other locations that could provide better topo maps of the search area from 1967. Other possible map locations include: David Rumsey Historical Map Collection; Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection; Old-Maps.co.uk; Old Maps Online; etc. Re maps, I am reasonably satisfied that I have located the only map of the Cameron Highlands in the possession of the US Library of Congress; this was in excellent condition, from 1963, and was very helpful. A copy is part of this report.

### The Murder of Katharine Thompson Wood, Sister of Jim Thompson

Martha Galleher (pp. 101-2) describes the murder of Jim Thompson's elder sister, Katharine "Ka" Thompson Wood:

On August 30, [1967], one of the most brutal homicides ever committed in Delaware occurred at a secluded home in Centerville, between Philadelphia and Wilmington. A cleaning woman discovered the dead body of Jim's older sister, Mrs. Katherine [sic] Wood, on her bed. She had been viciously beaten to death with a blunt instrument while her two trained watchdogs, a German shepherd and a golden Labrador retriever, stood by without attacking the killer. There were no signs that the assailant had forced entry into the home of this seventy-four-year-old woman, who the *Baltimore Sun* reported, was remembered by neighbors as a "quaint, charming person who took extensive hikes." She had lived quietly on her fourteen-acre estate. Her nearest neighbor was a quarter of a mile away. ...she kept her dogs and a gun in her bedroom; she often left her doors unlocked. Neither her money nor her jewelry had been stolen.

Since there was nothing missing, robbery seemed an unlikely motive. Also, the fact that the dogs did not attack (although one had a small injury to its mouth, according to one news clip), and there was no forced entry, indicated that the attacker was known to Wood. Furthermore, the extremely brutal, bloody and vicious nature of the attack made it appear to be a crime of passion, not of robbery. There was no sign of sexual assault. Ms. Wood "often left the door unlocked" and had a "gun in her bedroom." (Galleher, p. 101)

According to interviewees (see near the end of the interview section) in the area, one of whom knew Katharine Wood and her son, the persons listed below were possible suspects or at least POIs (but there

is no proof whatsoever of any guilt). (Note that since the Pennsylvania State Police declined to open the case file, there may well be other suspects in the case.<sup>21</sup>)

<u>Harrison "Harry" Wilson Wood, son of Katharine Thompson Wood</u>. He reportedly did not get along with his mother at all, since she criticized his line of work (selling dog food door to door (Foster interview)), which she felt was far beneath the family station (she socialized with the DuPont set). Also, she did not like the way he was raising his children, and told him so; she did not trust him to keep some capital for his children, so she wrote her will to prevent him from selling the house (a major asset); and he earned so little and she gave him so little that sometimes he appeared to be "starving." He stated to one interviewee that his mother "treated me like dirt." (All from the Foster interview.)

After the murder Harry Wood told an interviewee that "everyone thinks" he killed his mother, and "I can't prove I didn't." (Foster interview.) He told a reporter that he had voluntarily undergone a polygraph examination and passed it (see the Delaware/Pennsylvania clippings section). According to the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) cold case officer, the Chester County Coroner's Office, and press reports, Harry Wood committed suicide on Christmas Day 1971, about four years after the murder. (See interviews.)

Three weeks before he died, Harry Wood told reporters that he thought that both JT and Katharine Wood were killed by an international Communist conspiracy, which was seeking to discredit JT because JT was proving with his company that capitalism could work in Asia. This conspiracy apparently included American black militants such as H. Rap Brown. (Clip section.) Harry Wood also felt that a stranger could have "distracted her [male] dogs" by bringing along a "bitch in heat." All of this seems very unlikely, and the timing of this article soon before the suicide may be significant.

Harry Wood, as the son of a sister of JT, should have benefited from JT's will, which according to a newspaper account (clip file, annex) amounted to \$1.1 million in assets in the US, to be split among JT's eight nephews and nieces. Thus Harry should have been eligible for \$137,500, a large amount in the 1960s. This might give him a motive for action against JT.

There are various problems with this analysis, however, as follows:

- a. The actual value of the JT estate in the US, according to the administration papers (see annex), was much less than \$1.1 million, and was in fact only \$180,000, mostly from one small house.
- b. Harry's share of this limited amount would be small, at about \$25,502 (the share given in 1974 to Harrison W. Wood, Jr. and John Wood, sons of Harry Wood, who had died in 1971).
- c. It would appear extremely unlikely, however, that Harry would work out a way, with little or no resources, to engineer the death of JT thousands of miles away; and then,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The Pennsylvania State Police is the authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) over this case, since the house where the murder occurred is in Pennsylvania, not Delaware. Part of the property, the driveway entrance, most of the road, the nearest small town, the social center of the area, and the closest newspaper, are all in Delaware, so many people mistakenly think the murder occurred in Delaware.

d. for some reason kill his mother, who did not benefit from the JT will unless her issue were deceased.

A more plausible scenario might be that Harry had nothing to do with JT's death/disappearance, but in discussing JT's death with his mother, she perhaps taunted him with the fact that since JT's assets could not be distributed for seven years (since Thai and US law required this waiting period because no body was found), Harry would not benefit. (Harry was certainly aware of JT's death, since he filed an affidavit in January 1968 asserting that JT had disappeared in March 1967. (See annex re JT's will.)

Katharine Thompson Wood could be quite infuriating (Foster interview), and this and the factors above might perhaps have led to a murder of passion by her son. Again, there is no proof of any kind that has surfaced, all the above is speculation, and he stated to the press that he passed a polygraph examination.<sup>22</sup> (However, the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) cold case officer stated that he did not recall from reviewing the file that Harry Wood took a polygraph, while other persons of interest involved in the case did in fact take a polygraph.) Harry Wood was a POI during the investigation, and according to the PSP and the case file, the investigation over the years seemed to come back to him, although proof of any kind is lacking (see interview annex).

<u>Emory (or "Emery") Church, a handyman who often worked for Katharine Wood</u>. He was reportedly a "ne'er do well" and alcoholic, who could perhaps have gotten very angry with Wood over pay or other matters (Foster interview).

However, Mr. Church (ibid.) did not seem like the kind of person who could kill in a rage and then carefully remove all fingerprints and fibers from a bloody crime scene so perfectly that no clue remained. Furthermore, Mr. Church did pass a polygraph, according to the PSP.

Other relative, servant or handyman. Ms. Wood was reportedly very hard on her help, especially black people, and treated them very badly, once allegedly leaving a black maidservant stranded on the New Jersey Turnpike for no apparent rational reason, apparently just because she was black. One respondent stated that Ms. Wood "hated" black people. (Foster interview.) So some sort of encounter could perhaps have led to a crime of passion.

<u>Hazel Walters of Chadds Ford, maid to Ms. Wood</u>. She found the body about 8-9 am, according to news accounts (clip section). As the maid, she was closely involved with Wood, and could perhaps have had a major quarrel.

Rodney Layton, a respected local lawyer who lived nearby. He was Katharine Thompson Wood's lawyer and a former Navy fighter pilot (Foster interview). He was called to the murder scene by the maid (Hazel Walters) who found the body, and so he arrived before the police. He later provided a different maid to the new renter (and later owner) of the murder house. (Foster interview.) It seems extremely

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> I have observed only two polygraph examinations. Both were tests, in which it was known to all observers except the polygraph examiner whether the subject was lying or not. Both tests failed. I am not impressed with this technology.

unlikely that this pillar of the community could be a POI or suspect, but he did have considerable involvement in the household, perhaps beyond what one might expect. (See the interview section.)

A Chinese or Communist gang who was holding JT in Asia. One theory in the press (see clippings section) and among neighbors in late 1967 was that a gang holding JT in Asia for political reasons was trying to get at him and force him to divulge information, and to do so reached out to Pennsylvania, and killed his sister in the most brutal and professional possible way, thus generating news clips that they could use to shock and terrify JT. (And since they were professionals, they were careful to leave absolutely no clues.) Alternatively, the gang was seeking a way to get JT to denounce the US war in Vietnam. (Galleher, p. 153.) All this seems highly unlikely.

<u>A person trying to find the missing will of JT</u>. This is mentioned as a possibility by Galleher (pp. 102-3) but dismissed by stating that Katharine Woods' papers seemed to be undisturbed, and the only persons seeking the will would probably be "respectable members of the Siam Society." (Ibid.)

Jim Thompson. This possibility was not mentioned in the press or by interviewees, but those theorists who think that JT escaped from the Cameron Highlands undetected would have to acknowledge that he might have made it to Pennsylvania and murdered his sister. He often visited her about that time of year (Galleher, p. 51), he did not get along well with her, she criticized his personal life, and she could be infuriating. According to JK (pp. 62-3), JT was "brutally scolded" by Katharine for having Irena Yost as his open lover. Katharine "was the most Puritan" of the Thompson clan, and Jim "hardly ever spoke" to Katharine after this scolding.

But it seems very, very unlikely, however, that JT could sneak out of the CH, make it to America unobserved, kill his sister, and then establish a life somewhere else.

The Robert Johnson, Jr. Gang. This infamous gang was active in Chester County, PA and the surrounding area during the 1960s and 1970s, and was involved in theft, possibly hundreds of break-ins, and murders. While the PSP investigated this angle, the conclusion was that the gang's murders were targeted toward informants, not burglary victims; that the gang did not leave messy, bloody crime scenes; that there was no connection that could be established; and that the gang's murders were generally later than 1967 (see interview annex).

<u>Frank Jackamowicz</u>. This person was investigated for murdering an elderly woman in Philadelphia, after asking for a loan and she refused. He was, according to press reports, a "drifter" who was in the area at the time of the murder. However, the PSP investigated him and his common law wife at length, and found that they had left the area several days before the murder, and there was apparently no connection to Katharine Thompson Wood.

In summary, no proof exists for any of these POIs or suspects, and while some appear more likely than others, "person or persons unknown" would seem to be a reasonable description of the killer(s).

It does seem quite far-fetched, although perhaps possible, that there could be a direct connection between the JT disappearance and the Katharine Thompson Wood murder.

One of the most bizarre twists in this case relates to the FBI. A FOIA to the FBI on the JT and Katharine Wood case generated a reply which seemed to only address the Katharine Thompson Wood part of the case (see the FOIA annex). This reply baldly states, without explanation, that files which may have related to the Katharine Thompson Wood case were destroyed by the FBI in 1978.

Why would the FBI destroy files related to an unsolved, important murder case in the US? What is the significance of that date, 1978, eleven years after the disappearance of JT and the murder of JT's sister? None of the answers to these reasonable questions is forthcoming. An appeal has been filed.

The cold case officer at the Pennsylvania State Police was not aware that an FBI file may have existed or had been destroyed; thus indicating that the FBI did not bother to or wish to provide their information to local law enforcement officials who had direct jurisdiction over this unsolved murder.

### **Mattson Development**

In maritime search and rescue, a sophisticated and complex computer model has been developed, called SAROPS (SAR Optimal Planning System). This system automatically generates probability maps of where the target might be, based on known route intention, winds, currents, wind currents, tides, and numerous simultaneous simulations known collectively as a Monte Carlo simulation (Koester, p. 302-5).

Unfortunately, in land SAR there is no such computer model yet (Koester, p. 306), although Robert Koester has received a grant to build one (email exchange with Koester, 2014). Koester feels that when and if the land SAR model is built, it will be quite useful in cases such as the JT disappearance (ibid.).

However, until such a model is built, the existing land SAR approach might be used in the JT case. This approach involves creating a Mattson (named after its creator, Lt. Col. Robert Mattson, USAF Ret.).

Creating a Mattson involves the following steps (Koester, p. 309, also Lew Toulmin, *A Manual for Finding Missing Light Aircraft*, 2011):

- Carving the map of the incident area into planning regions or searchable segments (usually 6-12, per Koester, p. 310). These are often based on particular scenarios of where the subject was heading.
- Developing scenarios on where the subject might have gone, based on his interests, the regions, terrain, terrain features that might have steered his movements after he became lost, etc.
- Selecting a team of raters with experience in SAR, in the region, and with diversity of opinion, to review the facts of the case and the scenarios
- The "facts" in this case, for Mattson purposes, need not necessarily be this entire 600+ page report (!), since most of the annexes here are background information and relate to whether JT's remains are in the CH or in the "rest of world." Probably a 10-25 page summary of the facts

- of the case would suffice, and would be far, far more than most Mattson voting teams receive in the field in a typical case.
- Asking the raters to vote via secret ballot on the probabilities for each region or segment that the subject is in that segment, based on their experience and the scenarios developed
- Aggregating the ratings to produce a probability map. This map will certainly not guarantee a find, but it will help planners allocate resources to the highest probability areas.

Use of the Mattson approach may seem a bit silly and trivial to outsiders, but in fact it has been proven numerous times to be an excellent, sometimes quite amazing, approach for identifying high priority segments and allocating search resources. I observed this personally on a missing aircraft case near Sedona, Arizona, in which our team's Mattson voting identified one segment as the consensus highest probability location for the plane, and several weeks later the plane was found in that segment. A large part of the success of the approach is having a very experienced and talented person "carve" the map into appropriate segments and develop reasonable scenarios.

One form of Mattson, called the "open system," allows raters to also vote on a "rest of the world" (ROW) segment mentioned above, in which the subject is judged to be completely outside the search area. This would seem to be particularly appropriate in the JT case, since so much discussion and writing has gone into arguing that JT's remains are far from the CH.

It may of some small interest to know how I would vote on this controversial question of ROW vs. JT being located inside the general CH search area, if I was on such a Mattson voting panel. In making this decision, I would be torn by various conflicting factors:

- Knowledge that "keep it simple, stupid" (KISS) is almost always the best approach in SAR (and life). Here KISS dictates that JT just tripped over a root or had some other misadventure while walking off trail in the CH, broke his neck or was injured and later died, and was never found.
- Appreciation of the facts, as found in this report, that the search for JT was likely much less effective than thought at the time, with probable major flaws in planning and execution.
- On the other hand, acknowledgement that of all the hikers around the world who have gotten lost, JT was likely one of the most exotic, with an amazing past, various enemies, nearby CTs, and remarkable political and social connections.
- Agreement with Capt. Mohammad that it is important that the trailing dogs in 1967 could find JT's scent on the grounds of the Moonlight Bungalow, but could not track it off the MB's hill.

Based on these and other factors I would likely vote 15% for "rest of world" – that JT's remains are outside the Cameron Highlands -- and 85% that his remains are within the general CH search area. Within the search area, it would not surprise me if the remains were found fairly close, within 3-4 miles, of the IPP/LKP.

## A Possible Way Forward

So a possible way to move the JT case forward would be as follows:

- Assemble a team of raters as described above, including experts from US and Malaysian SAR, Malaysian jungle survival, and related fields, but excluding JT authors with fixed ideas on the case.
- Undertake the creation of a Mattson, including the Mattson voting described above. This should ideally include scenario building based on extensive experience with similar lost hiker cases, a review of the terrain features to see how they might have shaped JT's possible track(s), and discussion of the key factors in the case. The raters would be given an executive summary of the case, and would not be required to read all of this report.
- Attempt to identify the highest probability searchable areas, suitable for use in cadaver dog (HRD dog) searches. (Such dogs can and have located slivers of human bone that people cannot even identify as bone with the naked eye. See interview with Linda Murphy in the annexes.)
- Recruit and utilize a number of cadaver dogs, and search the high probability areas. There is at least one cadaver dog team in Malaysia, and it is a good practice to use local teams where possible, since they are more used to local conditions and are cheaper.
- If any "hits" are made, analyze them to see if they are in fact human remains. If so, continue searching in that immediate area, especially downhill, to attempt to locate other remains.
- Attempt to locate remains that can be DNA tested against JT relatives. If so, undertake these tests.

These steps would be difficult, somewhat costly (perhaps in the thousands to tens of thousands of USD), and the chances of complete success are admittedly fairly small. The main challenge would be identifying enough small but high priority search segments, and securing enough cadaver dogs, to search a meaningful portion of the target area. As described in the interview annex, a cadaver dog cannot search a large area at one go, the search process is intensive and tiring for the dog, and the dog thus must have substantial rest periods.

But if no steps are taken at all -- beyond a lot of repetitive press stories in 2017 rehashing the case -- then the probability of solving the disappearance of Jim Thompson is absolutely certain: zero.

#end report narrative#

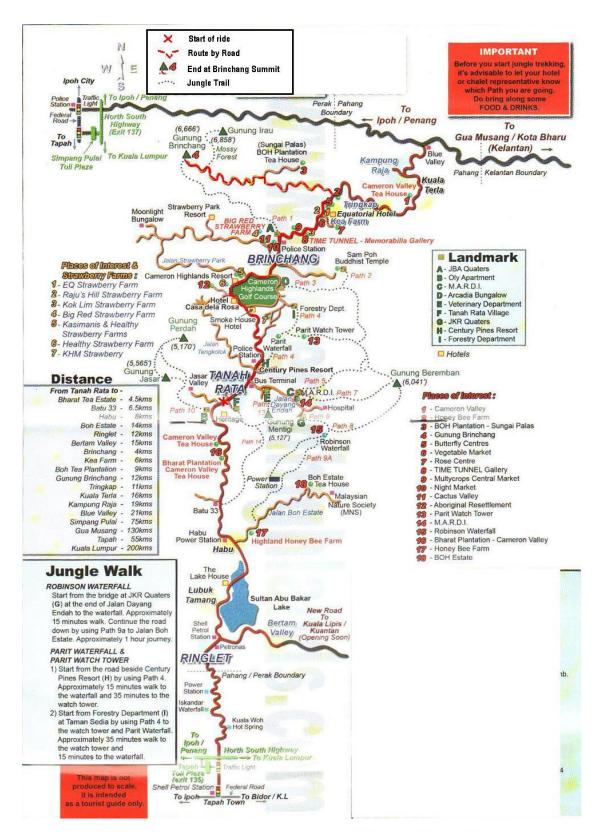
#### **List of Annexes:**

- 1. Other Maps of the Search Area
- 2. New York Times Clips on the JT and the Katharine Thompson Wood Cases
- 3. Various Other Relevant Clippings about the JT Disappearance
- 4. Clippings from Delaware and Pennsylvania re the Katharine Thompson Wood Case
- 5. Interviews re the JT and Katharine Thompson Wood Cases
- 6. Results of US Freedom of Information Act Requests
- 7. Contemporary (2013) Photos Re the JT Case
- 8. Information re the Family of Katharine Thompson Wood and JT
- Content and Analysis of the Wills and Estate Administration of KTW and her Son
- 10. Information from the US National Archives II and a CIA FOIA on JT's OSS Service, Search Efforts, JT Activities in the 1950s, and the Pollitz Sighting
- 11. Information from the FBI on the JT Case
- 12. Note from Henry Thompson, Nephew of JT
- 13. Excerpts from the Will and Estate Administration of JT, in Delaware
- 14. Items Related to Elizabeth (Lisa) Lyons
- 15. A Buddha Head "Looted" by JT
- 16. Accommodations and Resources in the Cameron Highlands
- 17. Biography of the Author

**Cameron Highlands Jungle Tekking Map** Brinchang Sam Poh ddhist Temple TRAIL 2 Gunung Forestry Perdah, TRAIL 10 TRAIL 4 Gunung Gunung Berembun Jasar TRAIL 11 Tanah Rata TRAIL 6 Apartment Robinson Bukit Waterfall Mentigi TRAIL 9 **Bharat Tea** Plantation Robinson Waterfall TRAIL 9A **Power Station** 

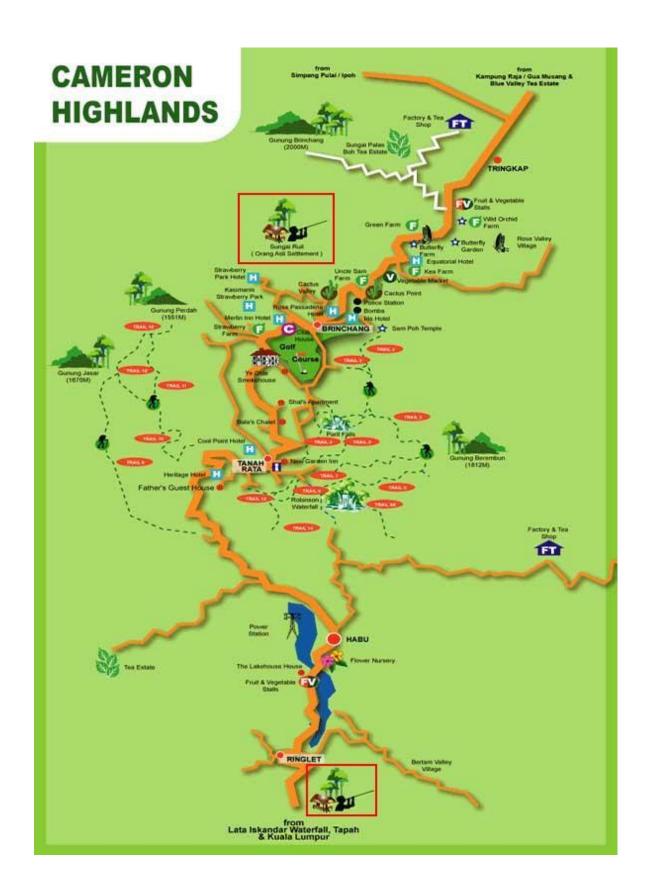
Annex 1
Other Maps of the Search Area

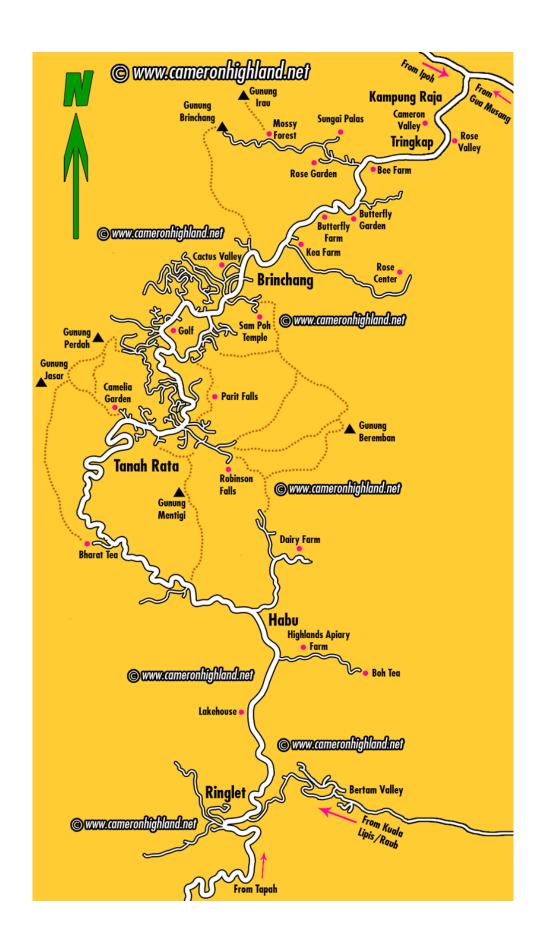
Current tourist map of the CH. Note that no trails are shown in the area N and NW of the Golf Course, where the MB is located and where most of the JT search took place.

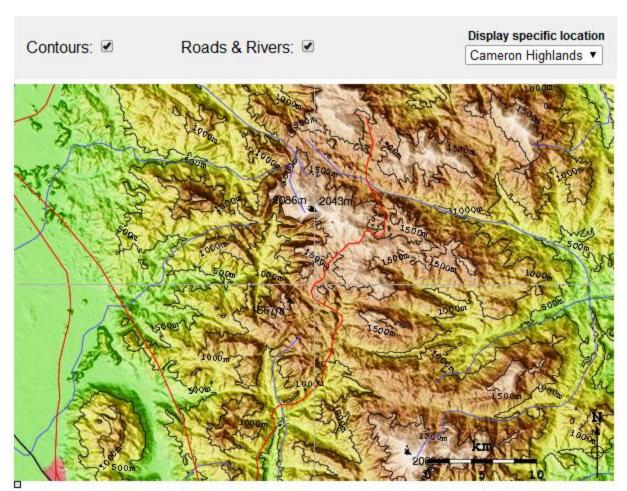


Current tourist map of CH.

Note Moonlight Bungalow shown NW of the CH Golf Course, with no other attractions nearby.







The above topographic map of Tanah Rata and the surrounding area has been derived from satellite mapping. The topographic data has been illuminated by a light source corresponding to the position of the sun at mid afternoon in summer. Major roads, railways rivers and other water features are derived from global GIS data.

#### Annex 2

## New York Times Clips on JT and Katharine Thompson Wood

NYT March 27, 1967

## A U.S. Millionaire Missing in Malaysia

By The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, March 27 — James H. W. Thompson, the American "silk king" who built a fortune in beautiful Thai cloth, has disappeared in the jungles of northwestern Malaysia.

Mr. Thompson, who is 61 years old and lives in Bangkok, was visiting friends in the Cameron Highlands resort area of Malaysia yesterday when he went for a stroll in the jungle. He has not been seen since.

More than 100 policemen, soldiers and civilian volunteers searched throughout the night without a trace of the millionaire, who is one of the best-known Americans in Southeast Asia.

Late tonight a member of the Thompson party, a Dr. Ammundsen of Bangkok, said: "We're really hoping now he

Continued on Page 11, Column 1

### The New Hork Times

Published: March 28, 1967 Copyright © The New York Times

## U.S. MILLIONAIRE LOST IN MALAYSIA

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

has been kidnapped and that we'll soon get word someone wants a ransom of 50,000 Malaysian dollars [about \$5,000] or so for his safety."

Kidnapper bands are known to operate in the Cameron Highlands area, which is about 90 miles north of Kuala Lumpur. They prey on wealthy Chinese businessmen, seizing them for ransom.

Other sources said there were no known armed Communist bands in the area, so it was unlikely that Mr. Thompson was being held by guerrillas. They said that the jungle into which he wandered has numerous trails and that he might have become lost.

. The police plan to bring up dogs and employ trackers from the aboriginal tribes in the hills tomorrow.

Mr. Thompson and his party were visiting Mrs. Helen Ling, a American married to a wealthy Singapore man of Chinese descent who owns a world-famous string of antique shops. Mr. Thompson, an antique fancier, is a long-time friend of the Lings.

Lings.

The Thompson business in Bangkok is known as the Thai Silk Company. Mr. Thompson, a bachelor, has a luxurious home and is famed for his glit-

tering parties.

The area where he disappeared is Malaysia's leading resort center. It is one of the few places in the former British territory where the weather actually gets chilly — 40 degrees — because it is about 5,000 feet above sea level.

## Awaited in Singapore

Mr. Thompson was scheduled to attend a dinner in his honor in Singapore last night, and the dinner was canceled as a result of his disappearance. An American businessman was to have given the dinner for 40 guests, including business leaders and diplomats, at the Raffles Hotel in Singapore. The United States Ambassador, Francis J. Galbraith, was expected to attend.

A woman in New York called The Times last night with information about the dinner. The woman, who asked not to be identified, said she had received word of the plans in a letter from her mother in Singapore.

In a telephone call to the Raffles Hotel, The Times confirmed details about the dinner.

#### Investment of \$700

A switch in Army orders at the end of World War II sent Lieut. Col. James Harrison Wilson Thompson to Thailand instead of to China. In Bangkok he spotted the bright Thai silks

#### Investment of \$700

A switch in Army orders at the end of World War II sent Lieut. Col. James Harrison Wilson Thompson to Thailand instead of to China. In Bangkok he spotted the bright Thai silks that were to be the basis of his personal fortune.

From this original investment was \$700 and a lot of hard work organizing home weavers into a reliable system of production. He became the largest exporter of silk fabrics in Thailand and his beautiful cloths—spectacular plaids and designs shot with gold and silver threads—were seen on the Broadway stage and in the great coutourier houses here.

Mr. Thompson, a 1928 Princeton graduate in architecture and a member of the Ivy Club there, entered the Army in 1940. He was sent to Thailand in August, 1945, and was discharged in 1946.

Quickly recognizing the profit potential in the silks, he remained in Bangkok and plunged into business.

He had at least some background in things Oriental. In childhood he learned of Southeast Asia from tales told by his grandfather, James Harrison Wilson, a Civil War general who later represented the United States Army in Siam, as Thailand was formerly known.

The boy had visited his grandfather's home at Wilmington from his own house at Greenville, Del., and he recalled that it was crowded with rare Oriental porcelains and exotic

grandfather's home at Wilmington from his own house at Greenville, Del., and he recalled that it was crowded with rare Oriental porcelains and exotic brocades.

#### Purchase by the Queen

It was at Mr. Thompson's shop in Bangkok that Queen Sirikit purchased several bolts of gold wilk that she later presented to Queen Elizabeth on a visit to Britain.

His home, a composite of five old Siamese buildings, is a landmark visited on public tours twice a week.

The \$700 investment grew, slowly, into an annual export business that sends \$1.5-million worth of hand-woven silks to many nations. It has also changed and expanded a sector of the economy.

On a visit here last fall, Mr. Thompson said that only about five looms were in use when he arrived in Bangkok. The silk business that he helped re-establish employed 4,000 people in the peak weaving period last year.

Mr. Thompson is credited with making Thai silk widely known in the nineteen-fifties but he, in turn, credited exposure of the silks in Broadway shows, including Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The King and I" (a musical set in old Siam), with a good deal of help.

# 300 Search in Malaysia For Missing American

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, March 28 (AP) — More than 300 policemen, soldiers and trackers with dogs searched the jungles of the Cameron Highlands without success today for James H. W. Thompson, the "silk king" of Thailand.

At nightfall scarchers expressed little hope that the 61-year-old American millionaire would be found alive unless he had been kidnapped.

Mr. Thompson went for a hike Sunday along jungle trails from a friend's villa. His hostess said he had seemed in the best of spirits and health.

Several theories were advanced, including tigers, kidnapping and illness. A tiger was seen in the area recently.

#### NYT April 22, 1967

## Jungle Expert Joins Search For American in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, April 22 (Reuters)—A British jungle warfare expert aided by an aborigine medicine man today joined the search for James H. W. Thompson, an American who disappeared four weeks ago in the Cameron Highlands jungles.

Richard Noone, 49 years old, who is now planning special operations with the Southeast Asian Treaty Organization in Bangkok, Thailand, said the expenses of his two-week investigation were being paid by Mr. Thompson's Bangkok-based

Thai Silk Company.

## Thai Silk Company Thrives as Founder Is Sought

By PETER BRAESTRUP Special to The New York Times

in Malaysia for James H. W. month.

The company's directors, who field, according to local bankers. Ceylon planning a parachute include both Thais and Ameri-It produces half a million yards operation into Japanese-occu-BANGKOK, Thailand, April cans, are scheduled to hold their of silk a year, employs 3,000 pied Thailand to join the free 29-While the search continues annual general meeting next workers, and stresses quality Thai forces. His associates here

In Malaysia for James 1. Whomson, missing wealthy It is almost certain, Mr. two other companies, Thaibok the war ended.

American "father of the Thai Sheffield said, that they will in the United States, and He served as an attaché, acsilk industry," his saddened business associates have revote to defer any decisions for Wellany of Hong Kong. But cording to reports in intelported business as usual. Two months, pending the con-Mr. Thompson believed in ligence work, to the United States diplomatic mission in

ported business as usual.

"Once everything was carried in Mr. Thompson's head," said company's founder.

Charles Sheffield, acting managing director of Thompson's Thai Silk Company, "but we are now an efficiently organized setting."

Indeed, in recent years, Mr. Thompson's fate, work Thailand's \$12-million-a-year on Mr. Thompson's success, industry of Japan.

Traveling widely, he saw traditional Thai silk being woven in the up-country villages—an art that had virtually ceased to exist in Bangkok before regular diplomatic mission in Bangkok before regular diplomatic mission.

control. Thai Silk has shares in said he got to Thailand after

tail headquarters on Suriwongse be because of curiosity, in- and introduce it to the Western FRoad to others.

"He was no fool," an associate recalled, "but the money part bored him."

Kidnapping Suspected

Mr. Thompson, a 61-year-old bachelor, vanished March 26 its silk have been affected by schools—St. Paul's School, during a visit with friends to Mr. Thompson's disappearance, Cameron Highlands, a fashion-able Malaysian resort. This week, the Malaysian police concluded that he had been kid-napped. There was speculation ago were still selling well; a vania and practiced in New among Mr. Thompson's friends particular shade of turquoise York, mostly designing private here that he had been abducted for political purposes by left. Thompson introduced 14 years at the University of Pennsylnam of proposition leaders.

In any event, the reward offered for information on his combinations of colors, weights, a commission in Officers' Canemer hanges in the Thai Silk Company, formation of the company are contemplated, Mr. Thompson set been selling in thousands of the went into the Army in yards for a decade. The com-1940 before the United States in Louise, and 'began training the silk for Thai weav-rounded Eastern for information on his combinations of colors, weights, a commission in Officers' Canemer hanges in the Thai Silk Company, formation of the com-1940 before the United States and patterns plus new didate School. He later served designs that have yet to be in the Office of Strategic Serving the produced anything as exquisite Company are contemplated, Mr.

Sheffield told an interviewer. Silk still dominates the local in August 1945, he was in pany director.

## SOCIETY MATRON BEATEN TO DEATH

Mrs. Katherine Wood Found in Pennsylvania Home

CENTREVILLE, Del., Aug. 30 (UPI)-Mrs. Katherine Thompson wood, 74 years old, a wealthy society matron and sister of James H. W. Thompson, the missing Thailand silk industrialist, was found beaten to death this morning. Her body was found in her bed at her isolated estate near here, where she lived alone.

The Pennsylvania state police said that Mrs. Wood had been beaten on the head with a heavy weapon while two huge watch dogs she kept for protection were apparently nearby. The weapon was not found immediately.

Investigators could give no motive for the slaying. There were no signs of a robbery, although her son, Harrison Wilson Wood of Paoli, Pa., reported that a diamond necklace worth several thousand dollars was missing.

Her brother disappeared mysteriously in Malaysia while visiting friends last March. Mr. Thompson, a native of Green-ville, Del., had combined a love for Thailand and a \$700 invest-Coatesville Hospital, where an ment into a \$1.5-million silk autopsy will be performed.
business in Bangkok. Mr. Thompson, a wartime

in an isolated rural area near cer, organized Thailand's raw here just across the Pennsyl-silk industry into one of Asia's vania border. Investigators said most profitable industries and she usually left the house open became a millionaire. and that recently there were no

Mrs. Wood's estate is situated United States intelligence offi-

## Is Jim Thompson Alive And Well in Asia?

By WILLIAM WARREN

BANGNOI.

A MONG the many visitors who came to a picturesque hill station called the Cameron Highlands, in northern Melaysia, for the Easter weekend last year was a tall, 61-year-old American businessman from Bangkok, James H. W. Thompson, internationally known as the founder of the Thai silk industry. He and a friend, Mrs. Comnie Mangakau, had come from Bangkok via Penang to be housequests of Dr. and Mrs. T. G. Ling of Singapore, whose summer bangalow, romantically named "Moonlight Cottage," was set on a hill above and away from the main part of the Highlands resort. It was planned as a restful weekend since Thompson was going to Singapore on Monday for a series of business meetings, but even so he hoped to Indulge in a favorite pastime and explore a few of the myriad and sometimes all but invisible trails that meander through the dense surrounding jungle.

times all but invisible trails that meander through the dense serrounding jungle. On Easter Sundny afternoon, following a picmic, the party returned to the bungalow for a rest. The Lings and birs. Mangskau decided on a map; Thompson said he was going to sit in the mild sunshine on the terrace. Around 3:30 P.M. Dr. Ling heard the sound of footsteps crossing the stone terrace and remarked to his wife that Thompson was going out for one of his solitary strolls. At about 4 P.M., a maid from a nearby cottage saw a man answering Thompson's general description admiring a rose garden along the road. If she was correct—the maid was a little confused about the time—she was the last known person to see Thompson before he vanished as totally and as mysteriously as the celebrated Judge Crater, leaving behind a Langle of intrigue and speculation that today, a year later, still shows no sign of letting up.

ONE reason certainly for the continuing interest in the

WILLIAM WARREN, who teaches at a Banglish university, has written "The House on the Kleng," a book about the Thompson home and art collection, to be published next fall. Thompson case is that even before he disappeared he had become something of a legend in Southeast Asia. He first came to Thailand as a colonel in the Office of Strategic Services (O.S.S.), a forerunner of the C.I.A., shortly after the Japanese surrender and, on his discharge from the Army, decided to go into business there rather than return to his prewar profession as an architect in New York. He experimented with several ventures before he hit on the lustrous silk of the country, which had been turned out for centuries on a family-see basis but never for export.

Thempson felt it had wider possibilities and, to test his belief, gathered up all the samples he could find and went to New York, where he called on the late Edna Wootnean Chase, an old friend and the editor of Vogue. Mrs. Chase, according to Thompson, took one look at the collection and then issued a dramatic order that no one was to leave the office without seeing it. The future of Thai slik was assured, at least as far as Vogue was concerned.

The subsequent history of the silk industry in Thailand is one of the classic success stories of postwar Asia. With a small initial investment, raised from both Thai and American sources, Thompson formed a silk-producing company of which he became managing director. He offered the wavers good prices, introduced fast European dyes and new designs, insisted that standards be met, and set about creating a market for the silk by methods that ranged from calling it to the attention of influential friends like Mrs. Chase to hawking it personally to tourists in the bobby of Bangkok's Oriental Hotel. The company he founded now does a business of over \$1.5-million a year and, thanks to approximately its other independent silk companies, the fabric has become a major Thai exportitem.

At the same time that Thompson was becoming what the newspapers inevitably called the "Thai Silk King," he was gaining prominence in other areas. He started a fabulous collection of Asian antiques, which he displayed in his Banglook residence, a composite of five elegant old That houses that became such a tourist attraction that he had to open it to the public two days a week to keep total strangers from barging into his bedroom; the proceeds went to a local charity. He also gained fame as host to an extraordinarily varied list of guests. Many of these, especially in later years, were world-traveling celebrities on the order of the late Somerset Mangham and Robert F. Kennedy; but in the early days the list included dissident Vietnamese and Laotian nationalists who had sought refuge in Thailand, as well as some high Thai officials who later fell into disfavor.

Mis association with such people gave rise to speculation—never confirmed—that he was still involved in the intelligence work he had done in the Army. As his business and social life increased, and as most of the refugees returned to their homelands, this aspect of Thompson's life diminished in importance. After he disappeared, however, many people recalled it, and it was to figure in some of the theories of what might have happened to him.

WHEN Thompson had not returned to Mocellight Cottage by nightfall, the Lings became alarmed and called the authorities. An impromptusearch party was organized and spent a fruitless night thrashing through the jungle near the house. Their theory was that Thompson either had become lost or had slipped and failen into one of the hidden ravines that are common along the trails; the idea of a more sinister explanation occurred to no one at first.

When the initial search re-

When the initial search revested no trace at all, reinforcements were called in. During the following week the largest manhunt in the history of the area was mounted, partly professional (members of the Mahysian self-defense force and helicopters provided by the military) and partly amateur (some British soldiers from a convalescent hospital, a troop of Boy Scouts, children from a missionary school and a number of resort

The New York Simes

21 April 1968 *New York Times* piece by JT's friend and associate, William Warren (cont. below)



MYSTERY MAN.—Since he vanished into the Malaysian jungle a year ago, Jim Thompson, ex-O.S.S. afficer and "king" of Thailand's silk industry, has become the center of an international mystery rivaling the celebrated Judge Crater case.

guests). Brig. Gen. Edwin F. Black, commander of United States support troops in Thailand and a friend of Thompson's from his Army days, flew down from Banglook to help. Members of the Sakai. an aborigine tribe that lives deep in the forest, were enlisted as guides. A reward of 20,000 Malaysian dollars (about \$7,000) was offered by the Thai Silk Company. The official search for Thompson lasted 10 days, involved more than 300 people, attracted headlines around the world and produced, ultimately, not a single clue as to his whereabouts.

It might be said that, with the end of the official search, the Thompson case entered its bizarre phase, although actually, within the first few days, some people had begun to question the accident theory. They said that he could not have been planning a very long walk; he had not left the bungalow until comparatively late and, though a heavy smoker, had left his cigarettes behind. Therefore, if he had had an accident it would almost certainly be in the area that was being so carefully searched. As for his hoving gotten lost, they recalled that he had had extensive jungle-survival training during his O.S.S. days and, moreover, had an excellent sense of direction. Finally, cases of lost guests who did not turn up in a day or so were practically unknown at the Highlands.

Advocates of the accident theory could point to certain flaws in these arguments. The abandoned cigarettes did not really prove anything, since Thompson was known to have been trying to break the habit. The O.S.S. training, while doubtless extensive, had after all been more than 20 years ago. And if permanently lost guests were a rarity, it was

(Continued on Page 110)

#### Malaysia's witch doctors all agree Thompson is alive

(Continued from Page 100) very likely due to peudence rather than to impossibility (a plate carrying four men crashed in the area in 1947, only a few miles from a main road, and the weekage was not found until several months before Thompson disappeared).

before Thompson disappeared). As one cluelets day followed another, however, such prosaic theories lost their appeal. The reward offer was prompted by the possibility, favored by seems Malaysian authorities, that he had been kidnapped by one of the wellorganized gangs that prayed on the country's wealthy Chinese. It was true that so far the victims had been exclusively Asian, but Thompson's wealth had been widely publicized and it was not inconcrively that they had decided to branch out into the American market.

One group was certain from the very beginning that no ordinary fate had befallen the missing American. These were the bornohe, or witch doctors, of Mainyria, who entered the case early on and have remained with it ever since. The occult arts, in an infinite variety of forms, have an established and respected place in Southwast Asian life. Astrologers and clairvoyants are consulted by governments as well as by private citizens, and their advice is taken in everything from marriage to business.

From the first, all the bomeha have agreed that Thompson is still alive, but they
have differed considerably on
exactly where and why. One
said Thompson was in the
hollow of a large tree (which
he located on a map), where
he was being held by a disgruntled "Spirit of the Forest";
the spot was duly visited,
without success. Another announced the startling news
that Thompson had been abducted by a blende nightchts
singer for obscure reasons,
and was in a jungle but.

Toward the end of April, the bornehs got some strong competition from a foreigner named Peter Hurkes, a Datchman who claimed that a fall from a ladder had given him unusual powers of extrasonsory perception. Hurkes had been involved in the Boston Strangler case with more publicity than success and was given credit by his followers for a number of astenishing discoveries by divination. Priends in California recom-

mended him to one of Thompsons sisters, Mrs. James Douglas, who decided he was at least worth a try.

least worth a try.

On his way to Banglook, Burkos and his attractive young assistant, Stephany Farh, stopped briefly in Hong Kong. Burkos wanted to "check out" the Red Chinese border to see if he could "Seet" anything connected with Thompson. He felt nothing and peoceeded on to Thailand, where he wanted to visit Thompson's house before going down to the Highlanda. There he had some ominous feelings, especially in the dining room. Thompson, he amounced, had been "playing with hot fire, associating with the wrong people." He talked with several of the missing man's friends, secured a recent photograph, and then left for the scene of the disappearance.

appearance.

Moonlight Cottage provided a barrage of servations, and Miss Farb had a tape recoeder handy to take down his reactions for the report she subsequently woots of their trip. Holding the picture of Thompson in one hand and placing the other on maps of Southeast Asia and the Highlands area, Hurkon went into a kind of trance, in which words seemed to tumble automatically out of his mouth. Sometimes, Miss Farb claimed, he spoke in Malaysian (this part was omitted from the report), but mostly it was in English, and what he "saw" in the course of the next hour was enough to entrance the most juded expionage-fiction for.

REDUCED to its essence, this is what he said had happened: Thompson was sitting on the terrace alone. A man named Behe or Preeble, who was known to him, came up and after shaking hands they walked down the road together. Bebe or Preeble was probably That. Half a mile down the road (Hurkos later identified the spot), the man put something over Thompson's face which caused him to go to sleep. Then a truck with 13 other men came along and the drugged man was taken in it to an airstrip in the jungle. From there he was flown to a village in Cambodia, where he was still being held captive.

When Hurkos returned to Bungkok with this story, there was a small diplomatic uproar. Among Thompson's political friends from the post

City New Hark Classes Published April 21, 1960 Copyright & The New York Times was one named Prick Phanamyeng, who had several times served as Prime Minister of Thailand and who, after a coup, had fied to Red China where, as far as anyone knew, he was yet. The similarity between the ex-Premier's name and the "Bebe or Preeble" that Hurkos "saw" was certainly striking. Furthermore, since neither Thailand nor the United States had diplomatic relations with Cambodia and were, in fact, on very strained terms, the peospect of testing the kidnap theory was very touchy indeed.

deed.

Cables flew between Bunglook and Washington, meetings were held between Burless and embassy officials, and
the possibility of enlisting the
aid of a neutral embassy in
Prompenh was considered.
Ultimately, it was decided not
to make the test, and Hurkos,
professing disappointment, returned to the States, suggesting hefore he left that he
might take the matter up with
President Johnson. Apparentby he never did, but he did
reappear in the case before
the year was cut.

HURROS was not the only mystic who believed Thompson was in Cambodis. A well-known Thai priest reached the same conclusion, though with some variations. According to his vision, Thompson was taken by four Thai men by boat to Cambodia. The priest felt that the abduction was definitely connected with the Vietnam war and that some good would come of it; thus he had decided, in the interests of peace, not to trouble Thompson's mind and make him resities to leave his hideout. Thompson's friends would have word of him, he said, by June 15, and there would probably be a crass-fire in Vietnam by late October, 1967.

ber, 1967.
Skepties might question some of these clairwayant activaties, but the opinion of another expert who went to the Highlands was not to be dismissed so lightly. This was Richard Noune, formerly a British adviser to the Malaysian aborigines and now a planning officer at SEATO headquarters in Bangkok. Nouse was asked to go down to see if the tribes knew anything they might have felt it wise to withhold from the police. His credentials for the task were impressive: he spoke the aborigines' larguages end, as far as any foreigner could, had their trust. Moreover, it was not the first time he had been involved in a search of the area; in the late nineten-forties, his brother had wanished in the same

mountains, and Noone had gone in and succeeded in finding his grave.

Noone spent two days in the jurgle, exploring trails and talking with the natives. At the end he stated flatly, "I am convinced that Thompson is not lost in the jungle."

In the ensuing months, the widespread interest in the case stubbornly refused to die. It remained a major topic of conversation in most of the capitals of Southeast Asia, and wherever it seemed about to wane, a new rash of rumors and theories would bring it back to tife.

Moonlight Cottage continued to attract mystics and amateur searchers, inspired, perhaps, by an increased reward offer. A businessman munist plot to end the American bombing of North Vietnam. The enemy, he reasoned, knew of Thompson's prominence and were trying to force him to denounce the Thai Government for allowing American planes to fly bombing missions out of Thailand, A Malaysian businessman, equally imaginative, told a newspaper that Thompson might have been spirited away by a lovesick Sakai tribes-woman. "Once you fall into their hands," he said, "and once they fall in love with you, they never let you go."

by a lovesick Sakai tribeswaman. "Once you fall into their hands," he said, "and once they fall in love with you, they never let you go," The case returned to the front pages five days before Labor Day when Thompson's eldest sister, Mrs. Katherine eldest sister, Mrs. Katherine Thompson Wood, was found savagely beaten to death in her house near Philadelphia. Mrs. Wood, who was diversed



THOMPSON TREASURE—This seated Buddho is part of the fabulous collection of antique Asiatic art that has made the home of James Thompson a major towist attraction in Bangkok.

from Sarawak came with his niece, a shaven-headed medium named Lucy Vee, and searched for several days. Toward the end of the year, members of a search party from Singapore got lost themselves for a brief spell and were persuaded by worried authorities to stop looking. Mrs. Ling had to ask for a police guard to protect her rose guard to protect her rose guarden from being trampled by strangers.

The theories, too, prolifer-

The theories, too, proliferated. A high-ranking American official who was close to the case suggested that Thompson might have been kidnapped as part of a Comfrom the son of Mej. Gen. Leonard Wood, had lived alone. Her murderer had not foeced his way into the house, nor, apparently, had he been attacked by her watch dogs; nothing at all was taken from the house. There were no clues and the case has remained unsolved.

The theorists, of course, immediately found a link between the two mysteries. Burkes emerged again to suggest that Thompson's kidnappers had killed Mrs. Wood to force him to denounce the American presence in Thailand, and he repeated his assurance that the missing man was still in

Ohr Nine Bank Elmes Published April 21, 1966 Copyright © The New York Times Cambodia; for good measure, he added that he felt strongly that "another sister" was in

that "another sister" was in grave danger.

One of Thompson's younger relatives, noting the recurrence of Cambodia in the theories, wrote a personal letter to Prince Sihanouk, asking for any assistance he could give. The letter was published early this year in a French-language newspaper in Phompenh, along with a reply from Sihanouk in which he said he could not imagine why anyone thought Thompson was in Cambodia, but that he would see if he could find out anything about could find out anything about the matter. Thus far he has not published his findings, if

IN Bangkok, Thompson's silk company, still thriving despite the loss of its founder, continues to receive regular communications from bomobs, fortune hunters, shady characters with information to sell, and simply well-meaning recoils who have overheard a

fortune hunters, shady characters with information to sell, and simply well-meaning people who have overheard a statch of conversation at a cocktail party in Singapore or Saigon and want to pass it on.

Spurred perhaps by the coming of the first anniversary, a Thai newspaper a few weeks ago ran banner head-lines proclaiming that Thompson had been found in Penang. The story inside was a good deal less precise and apparently derived from something a reporter had heard from a triend who had heard it from someone chae.

Two Americans, who had been staying at the Highlands, stopped in Bangkok recently and reported that a bomoh had produced what he said was the name of Thompson's mother; if correct, they thought, it might mean something. Unfortunately, it was not correct. And a man in Penang went into a trance and came up with an arresting discovery, which he dispatched to Bangkok: "The abduction was done by Chinese secret society people with the help of Rotary clubs."

And so, as a close friend of Thompson's remarked, nothing is really known after a year that was not known in the first week of the search. None of the predictions, theories, mystical visions or supposed links have been supported by any have been one of the craxy plots people keep sug-

open," the friend said, "It may have been an accident, or it may have been one of the craxy plots people keep suggesting. Everybody in Banghok and half of Malaysia seems to have a pet theory and any one of them may be right. Who knows?"

City New Back Cones Published: April 21, 1966 Copyright © The New York Times

## Annex 3 Various Other Relevant News Clippings About the JT Disappearance



Straits Times (of Malaysia), Wednesday, 29 March 1967

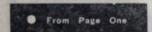


Straits Times, Wednesday, 29 March 1967

MORE than 300 people - Police Field Force, British servicemen and others - have joined the search for Bangkok millionaire Jim Thompson, missing in the Cameron Highlands since Sunday afternoon. A search from the air is being conducted by an RMAF helicopter and two more from the British Royal Army Air Corps. — Straits Times picture.

THE RESERVE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

# No sign of missing millionaire so far



return to Singapore yesterday but due to Mr. Thompson's disappearance are remaining in the Highlands.

Ling said Mr. Thompson had a very adventurous nature and was interested in wild plants.

It was possible that these factors carried him farther into the jungle than he had expected when he went on his stroll.

### Third visit

Mr. Robert Bliss, of the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, has also arrived here in connection with Thompson's disappearance.

Mrs. Mangskau said she had known Mr. Thompson for 22 years and that their visit to the Cameron Highlands was their third.

During their last five years ago, she said, Mr. Thompson was stung by some hornets about

half a mile from the same bungalow.

He had told her that he wanted to return to the spot where he had been stung to have a look around.

Mr. Thompson, Mrs. Mangskau and Dr. and Mrs. Ling went for a jungle walk on Saturday morning and spent the rest of the day in the bungalow.

On Sunday, they pic-nicked on Gunong Brinchang (6,666ft) and re-turned to the bungalow at 2.30 p.m.

While the others were resting, Mr. Thompson went out without leaving word behind with anyone.

"I heard footsteps pass bedroom door by my about 3.30 p.m. and presumed it was Mr. Thompson taking a stroll," Dr. Ling said.

When Mr. Thompson failed to return by 6 p.m. Dr. Ling drove to the area in the Brinchang hope of finding him. But no one had seen him.

At 7.30 p.m. he went to the police at Tanah Rata. A party of 30 aborines assembled and searched the jungle till about 2 a.m. without success

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Early yesterday the search was continued with 120 people. The searchers were divided into groups and went out in shifts but again without success. At midnight the search was called off temporarily.

### British aid

Today the search continued with twice the number of people, again working shifts, but till late this evening there was still no news of Mr. Thompson.

Later today two British Royal Army Air Corps helicopters which made a stopover here on their way home to Seremban agreed to assist in the search.

## Car crash

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues.-Malay Mail photographer Yong Peng ho

La create and BRS-- - - No seeder Close-up of Straits Times, Wednesday, 29 March 1967

## A SEARCH IN NEW JUNGLE AREA BEGINS



FATIMAH ...she saw him in the garden

## Cook: I saw millionaire the day he vanished

By P.C. SHIVADAS TANAH RATA, Wednesday

A COOK in the Lutheran Mission bungalow here looked closely at today's picture in the Straits Times of missing American millionaire businessman Jim Thompson and said: "Yes, that is the man I saw on

Sunday.'

Che Fatimah binte Mohamed Yeh, 24, was positive it was Mr. Thompson, 61, she saw the day he vanished.

She was even able to describe the clothes correctly he wore—a white long-sleeved shirt and grey slacks.

#### Man on road

This is Che Fatimah's story as told Supt. A.S. Nathan, who is directing the search by men of the Police Field Force from

Ipoh:
"At about 4 p.m. that "At about 4 p.m. that Sunday, I was in the kitchen when I saw this man come up the road. He left after a look around the garden.
"He did not speak to anyone, and left soon afterwards the same way he had come"

The bungalow, where Mr. Thompson had been staying vith friends—Mrs. Commie Mangskau, who came with him from

who came with him from

● Back Page Col. 2

## Polls offences probe

JESSELTON, Wed. — Police here are investigating 14 alleged offences under the Elections Or-

dinance.

None of the investigations concern Government officials, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. D. B. Goodsir, savi

### France's first

CHERBOURG, Wed.—President De Gaulle today launched France's first nuclear submarine—the Le Redoutable.—UPI.

## rothers die er tragedy

about 6 p.m. yesterday with another brother, Chui Cha, aged seven. Half-an-hour later, Chui Cha returned and said that his three bro-thers were missing. Tan rushed to the ri-yer. He found their clothes on the bank but they were missing.

## Soek to quit palace soon

JAKARTA. Wed. — Deposed President Soekarno will formally leave the Merdeka Palace next month, according to the newspaper New Vanguard.

The palace will be used as the office of the new Head of State, Gen. Suharto, the newspaper adds.—UPI.

### Fired: Peking's top novelist

PEKING, Wed. — Mao Tun, probably China's best-known novelist, has been dismissed from the editorship of the monthly magazine Chinese Literature.

Mao Tun is the pen-name of 72-year-old Shen Yen-ping, Minister of Culture from 1949 until two years ago.—Reuter.

### 'Perfect couple' separate

HONG KONG, Wed.—Actress Betty Lo Ti and actor Peter Chen Ho, regarded as the Hong Kong film world's "perfect couple" have separated, the English afternoon paper Star reported today.—UPI.

Straits Times, Thursday, March 30, 1967



Straits Times, Thursday, 30 March 1967

## **Temple** medium joins in the big

By P. C. SHIVADAS

search

TANAH RATA,
Thurs.— A temple medium was
brought in today to
join the big search
for American millionaire Jim Thompson.

aire Jim Thompson.

His forecast, after going into a couple of tranes today: Mr. Thompson is "alive but weak and possessed by evil spirits. He day is out, if a proper search is made."

The medium, Mr. Thom Weng, 29 a house painter, of Brinchang, four miles from here, has had three "communications with the Gods" so far. The first was yesterday evening.

#### 'Hiding in hole'

'Hiding in hole'

Then he forecast that Mr. Thompson would return to 'Moonlight' bungalow, where he was staying before he vanished on Sunday afternoon, 'on his own' at 9 am. this morthing.

When this did not happen, the medium worked himself into a tranca again, twice today.

In reply to questions from Mr. Shee Voon Chin, a sundry-shop proprietor and Mr. Raymond Chan, a food contractor, who arranged for his services, he drew this picture of the missing millionaire from Barigkok:

Mr. Thompson, possessed as he was by evil spirits, was hiding in a hole under a large tree, he said.

#### 'Wrong direction'

Search parties had passed within feet of him but 
he had been unable to 
attract their attention. He 
is not far from the bungalow — in a morth-west 
erly direction. Mr. Shee 
said Mr. Chan, with the 
help of some of their employees and aborigines, 
earlier this morning, has



TEMPLE MEDIUM THONG ... first prediction didn't come off

### Giant jet crashes into hotel: 18 dead

NEW ORLEANS. Thurs,—
Nine school children
were among at least 18
people who died when a
giant jet airliner crashed onto a hotel less than
a mile from the New
Orleans international
airport today.
The children were high
school students on an
outing. They had been
staying at the hotel.
Their bodies were from the staying
at the hotel.
Their bodies were the started
by the exploding airliner.
Bodies servelent taken to
room in the main terminal complex of the airport, which is situated 15
miles from central New
Orleans, to await identification.
There were six people
aboard the DC-8, belonging to the Detta air lines.
It was on a training
flight.—Reuter.

### Fire razes workshop

### Big earthquake in China

ofice of the constitution of the constitution

## Bung is not ill, says Yurike

A YOUNG wife of Indonesia's ex-President Soekarno denied reports that her 65-year-

### Girl as 'gift'

Girl as 'gift'

Yurke, interviewed at the Jakaria home given to dent, akaria home given to dent, akaria home given to dent, expressed surprise at ried in 1964; the to see him 'I would like to see him 'I would like to see him 'I' would like to see him rai election," she said.

By her count, she said.

By her count, she is Soekarno's fourth wife She denled a report that Soekarno had also married as the snew with the said.

By her count she is Soekarno had also married and he wisew will knew of an-wind had been girl, Laura Ismael, who had been girl, Laura Ismael, who had been girl, like to soekarno by her uncle, an ex-Governor of Central Infoncisian Borneo, is small the for the release of her brother from put was wat said the now studying in Tokyo, does not count as a wife, she said.

## The flying Noah's Ark



Straits Times, Friday, 31 March 1967



lar of smoke cleared, the skeleton of the ship's stern still held fast on the rocky He escaped with his life Straits Times, Friday, 31 March 1967

Garden tence

But when the 1,000ft pil-



Straits Times, Saturday, 1 April 1967



Straits Times, Saturday, 1 April 1967



Sunday Straits Times, 2 April 1967

## All set to lift the jungle curtain in the search for the missing millionaire . . . Story and Picture by CHOU CHUAN SENG.

TANAH RATA, Sat. — The latest in American electronic equipment came into play today in the Cameron Highlands hunt for the missing American millionaire from Bangkok, Mr. Jim Thompson.

An aerial tower was set up on a water tank near "Moonlight" bungalow, throwing a radar communications net with a 10-mile radius over the surrounding dense jungle.

On the water tank was the Master of the Hunt — Lieutenant Dennis Horgan, who kept a minute-by-minute radio contact with the search party.

#### CONSTANT CONTACT

And on the receiving end in the deep jungle was Brigadier General Edwin Black, Commander of the U.S. support forces in Thailand and a long-time friend of Mr. Thompson. With him was Mr. Dean Frasche, of Union Carbide in Bangkok, another of Mr. Thompson's friends. They were accompanied by two aborigines.

The General, a veteran in

jungle fighting, carried a wireless and kept constant contact with his aide. At the same time, he kept in touch with other search parties.

Joining in the big hunt was a company of 200 officers and of the police field force on training operations at Tambun near Ipoh. They had made their way through the jungle to Tanah Rata and were ordered to join up with another police party.

#### SUPERB JOB

Meanwhile, a police party probing the jungle since Monday, back-tracked the area around Moonlight bungalow and extended the search towards the north and the north-east. Supt. A. S. Nathan is in charge of police search operations.

Up to this afternoon, there were still no news of Mr. Thompson. General Black, who arrived yesterday from Thailand with Mr. Frasche and Lieut. Horgan, praised the police here for their "excellent job" in connection with the search and described them as very co-operative.

General Black is expected to remain in the Highlands for a few days more to assist in the search. The bolice search will continue until "further instructions." Mrs. Connie Mangskau, who came here with Mr. Thompson and Dr. and Mrs. T. G. Ling of Singapore, was reported to be slightly indisposed today

Sunday Straits Times, 2 April 1967

# Red killed in border battle with Thai police patrol

A THAI border police patrol shot dead a Communist terrorist in the jungle near Betong, south Thailand, last month.

A Malaysian border operations officer said today the area where the bandit was killed was not far from the scene where 10 members of a 15 man Thai—Malaysian security patrol were killed in an ambush by 30 Communist terrorists in August last year

It is believed that the dead terrorist was one of the gang which staged the August ambush.

According to a report received in Alor Star today, the terrorist was shot dead during a clash between a Thai border police patrol

ALOR STAR, Sunday

and about 10 bandits on March 18.

News of the action had been withheld until today for security reasons.

for security reasons.

The Thais were operating in the Betong area when they were fired on by the terrorists. It is believed that a number of the enemy was wounded.

### Follow-up

The terrorist gang withdrew into the jungle after the battle. They emerged again in an attempt to retrieve the body of their dead comrade.

After several attempts, during which the gang fired shots at the Thai patrol, the terrorists were forced to withdraw.

The identity of the dead terrorist is being withheld.

In another clash between a Thai police border patrol and an unknown number of terrorists in the Weng district, across the Kelantan frontier on March 20, a Thai police constable and a guide were injured when they fell into a terrorist bamboo

trap.
The terrorists withdrew when reinforcements arrived to help the Thai patrol which was seriously outnumbered.

During follow-up operations, the remains of a big terrorist camp were located in a valley. It is believed that the terrorists destroyed the camp when they evacuated it.

Straits Times, Monday, 3 April 1967

This CT clash was not in the Cameron Highlands, but shows that severe clashes with Communists were going on not far away, at about the same time as the JT disappearance.



Straits Times, Tuesday, 4 April 1967

## Hunt Ends for Silk King; Last Reward Withdrawn

James H. W. Thompson, an American who made a fortune selling Thai silk, was a house guest of a Chinese merchant and his American-born wife at villa in the Cameroon Highlands, a resort area in Malaysia, on March 26, 1967.

Between lunch and dinner Thompson retired to his room. When a servant knocked to summon him to dinner, the guest had vanished.

Two and a half years of in-vestigation by Malaysian police turned up no trace of Thompson seyond the room and no clue to

his fate. Last week the investigators marked as closed their efforts to find out what happened. The last reward, a \$10,000 police offer for information, was with-drawn. At one time during the Continued on Page 9, Col. 1



James H. W. Thompson

## Silk King Mystery

Continued from First Page

march, rewards totaled \$60,000.

Thompson, whose American home was in Greenville, Del., was 61 when he disappeared During World War II, he served as an agent of the U.S. Office.

Strategic Services (OSS), forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. His operations were against the Japanese in the China-Burma-India Theater. He was ordered to Thailand at the war's conclusion and was a titracted by the brilliantly controlled the service of the conclusion and was the second of the U.S. States and visit Mrs. Wood at her secluded Chester County search, rewards totaled \$80,000.

at the war's conclusion and was attracted by the brilliantly colored Thai silks made by cottage workers. The silks were little known outside Thailand and Thompson saw an instant market in the United States. After retiring from the OSS he founded the Thai Silk Co., an Wood was found beaten to export business which flourished from the start.

States and visit Mrs. Wood at her secluded Chester Country home, near Chadds Ford. In the summer of 1967, authorized her brother had been missing six months, Mrs. Wood was expecting a renewal of that yearly visit. On August 30 Mrs. Wood was found beaten to death in her home.

Tished from the start.

The cottage industry had been dying out. Thompson revived it. He encouraged the th. house, had not been heard that is to continue making their rich reds and biues and had designers develop new combinations and patterns. Refere low. tions and patterns. Before long Mrs. Wood's death remains he had developed an interhe had developed an inter-las much a mystery as net national marketing organization brother's disappearance.

and the silks became Thailand's best known export to the Western World.

Thailand the other of those in Western World.

#### The Tiger Theory

First speculation was that Thompson had walked into the main in Thailand. jungle and become lost. Against

prey on wealthy Chinese busi-nessmen, seizing them for ran-som, Had Thompson been taken captive by them? No ransom demand was received.

Md., said he thought Thompson had been kidnaped by Communists because he had shown the people that capitalists could bring them prosperity.

He said Thompson's company did an annual export and retail business of \$1.2 million a year and that poor people who had

and that poor people who had begun weaving silk for it were now "wealthy people with houses, one or two automobiles, and are sending their children to Germany and France for their education."

The dispatch reporting last week's termination of the search said that rumors still

persist that Thompson is alive. One is that he has gone to Pek-ing, the capital of Red China.

the United States.
His Thailand property was left

His Thailand property was left to a nephew, Henry B. Thompson and the large police and Army units that were lice and Army units that were vate understanding with the invelse. deployed to search the jungles for him.

First speculation was that

An agreement between the nephew and the Siam Society, jungle and become lost. Against this was his jungle tracking experience as a member of the OSS in that area of the world. Had he been killed by a tiger, perhaps eaten?

Kidnapper bands operate in the Cameroon Highlands. They are you wealthy Chinese businesses were made the residuary increase.

Thompson's eight nephew and nleces were made the residuary heirs of his American fortune, A year after the disappearance a brother, Henry B. Thompson, of Reisterstown, Md., said he thought Thompson, had been the conserved its assets until a formal finding of his death makes their distribution possible. valued in excess of \$1.1 mil-llion. Two trustees have been

Note residual value of JT's estate: \$1.1 million. Source: O. Wells Foster file, clip from a DE or PA paper, c. 1969



11 December 1983 retrospective article from the *Chicago Tribune* (continuation pages missing; National Archives II)



Life Magazine retrospective article, May 1984 (from CREST C.I.A. database, National Archives II)

1720年17年18年17日本建筑市场中国中国

shire en route to Princeton, Graduate studies at the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture followed, and afterward he joined a New York firm and settled down to what appeared to be a steady, if unspectacular, career designing homes for the East Coast rich. During those years Thompson squired debutantes and involved himself in such socially correct undertakings as the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo. Seemingly, it was the perfect life. But there was a part of him that was restless, and in 1940, without explaining why either to family or friends, he enlisted as a private in the Delaware National Guard.

When the war broke out he was commissioned a lieutenant and eventually posted to Fort Monroe, Va. There Thompson met two people who were to profoundly affect his life. The first was Pat Thraves, a ravishing blond former Powers model and horsewoman from Middleburg, Va. Thompson promptly fell in love with her, and after a brief, passionate courtship, they were married. The second person was a recent West Point graduate named Edwin Black. Worried that the war in Europe was about to pass them by, Black persuaded Thompson to come with him to Washington to join an outfit that promised plenty of intrigue and action. Called the Office of Strategic Services, it was the forerunner of the CIA.

While Thompson was in Europe, blowing up communication centers and railroad tracks behind German lines, Pat was in New York, falling in love with another man. The news staggered Thompson, and he immediately volunteered for service in the China-Burma-India theater. Promoted to licutenant colonel, he was sent to Ceylon to train a group of "Free Thai" guerrillas. Their mission was to parachute into central Thailand and organize resistance against the Japanese occupiers. Thompson, then 39, took the course in parachuting and jungle survival techniques right along with them. The jump was set for August 14, 1945. But as the C-47 bearing Thompson and his raiders flew toward the target, the pilot received a radio message. World War II was over; the Japanese had surrendered.

Four days later, Thompson and a handful of other officers flew to Bangkok. They arrived to find a garrison of 105,000 dispirited Japanese and, as one American who lived there during the time put it, a place that seemed not so much a national capital as 'a quaint, rather down-at-theheels Oriental country town," In Bangkok, at least, the war had not been devastating, and after the Japanese had been sent home, Thompson had plenty of time to explore up-country. During one of his excursions, to the northern provincial capital of Chiang Mai, he noticed there were looms in many of the houses. When he inquired about their purpose, he was told they were for the weaving of silk but that the art had virtually ceased to exist. He was, however, shown one pile of the finished cloth. It was gleaming and iridescent, yet with a curious-ly rough texture. Altogether, it was the most extraordinary fabric Thompson had ever seen, and it gave him an idea for the future.

In the meantime, having resigned from the OSS, Thompson was serving as the U.S. embassy's political officer, a job that entailed sorting out not only all the contending factions in Thailand but those on the French-occupied Indochinese peninsula as well. It was sensitive, clandestine work, and in the course of it Thompson came to know many of the leaders of postwar Southeast Asia-along with many who would ultimately take to the jungles to oppose them. One of the closest contacts he made was Pridi Phanomyong, a lawyer of immense charm who. during the war, had served as regent to the young Thai king. Pridi's position put him in the palace, where, literally under the Japanese noses, he had organized the Free Thai resistance, operating under the legendary code name

Pridi rose to become prime minister—a title he was not destined to keep. In June 1946 the Thai king, Ananda, was found shot dead in his bed. Though the evidence suggested suicide, Pridi's opponents claimed it was murder and that Pridi was behind it. Though Thompson and Pridi's other American friends refused to believe the charge, he was nonetheless forced from office. A group of right-wing generals took over in a coup, and after a disastrous countercoup attempt of his own, Pridi fled the country, settling finally in China.

By then Thompson had decided to remain in Thailand permanently. "I often wake up in the morning and wonder why I am here and how I ever got involved in all of this," he wrote to his sister Elinor. "I must say I enjoy it and there are enough interesting people to talk to whenever you feel like it, and there is always something that pleases the eye, whether it's a sunset on the river, or a little Chinese temple all lit up at night I was always fascinated by the Arabian Nights when I was young, and this part of the world is very much like that."

The more concrete reason for Thompson's decision to stay was business. After resigning from the embassy, he had joined with other investors to take over the dilapidated Oriental Hotel. But after a falling-out among the partners. Thompson decided to try his hand at selling silk. He found a group of weavers living on the edge of a klong in a Muslim enclave known as Bangkrua. Amid considerable skepticism, he persuaded them to weave the fabric in salable lengths and to replace the easily. faded vegetable dyes they had been using with aniline dyes from Switzerland. The colors and patterns were selected by Thompson himself. As Maxine North, wife of a Hollywood screenwriter, who arrived in Thailand in 1950,

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remembers, he also did his own marketing. "My husband and I were checking into the Oriental," she recalls, "and there was this American man standing in the lobby with a bunch of silk slung over his arm. Naturally, I was curious, so I went over to talk to him," she continues. "Two days later, I went over to his shop, a little hole in the wall on the end of Suriwong Road. Jim began draping silk all over me. 'This is you,' he would say, and he made you believe it. He really was the most fantastic salesman in the whole world. That day I bought my first piece of silk, a shimmering lavender, and had it made into a dress." "It's a funny business," Thompson wrote in a letter home, "almost like being a missionary, but with prettier results. I'm afraid," he announced, "I could never be happy with the New York-Wilmington life."

The silk for Thompson's fabrics came from the impoverished northeast, an area that would later prove fertile for Communist insurgency, and on his frequent buying trips up-country, Thompson saw and learned much. His Republican political predisposition turned liberal Democratic, and among friends he was outspoken in his opposition to colonialism. "With all the fine, high principles our country was founded on," he wrote sister Elinor in 1949, "if is ghastly to think that we should support such a foul, filthy, corrupt, brutal regime as we have in French Indochina." Then he added a prescient footnote: "If we ever wanted to win, now it will have to be by brute force and by annihilating the better part of the population, as they hate us so."

Such sentiments were unpopular in Thailand, and others had paid dearly for expressing them. A number of Pridi's allies who had been friends of Thompson's were murdered while in police custody, and Thompson's most trusted assistant was kidnapped, driven to a deserted area, then stabbed to death and buried facedown so that his spirit could not reach nirvana. Afterward, Thompson hid

several of the remaining Indochinese who worked for him, until he could arrange their escape from the country. He also became far more cautious about his own political comments. Years later, when asked about his postwar involvements, he would say only, "There is nothing to talk about. All my friends are dead."

The silk business, meanwhile, continued to prosper, boosted by Thompson's social contacts in New York. During one of Thompson's annual fall trips to the States, Vanity Fair editor Frank Crowninshield, a pal from debparty days in the '30s, introduced him to Edna Woolman Chase, editor of Vogue and the then reigning grande dame of American fashion. Mrs. Chase looked at the silks Thompson had piled on her desk and announced to her secretary that none of the staff were to leave the office until they, too, had beheld this marvel. As word spread. Hollywood began to seek Thompson out, and he provided the fabric for many of the costumes in-The King and I and later for Ben-Hur as well. Before long, a stop at Jim Thompson's became a must on any tour of Asia.

The press of visitors helped convince Thompson that he needed new quarters. So did his growing art collection. Thompson had begun collecting shortly after the war-only the occasional piece at first, but as his eye sharpened, gradually more and more. He roamed back alleys and country villages incessantly seeking finds. On one such expedition, to the former Thai capital, Ayutthaya, he was accompanied by a Thai princess, her husband and "Red" Jantzen, the then CIA station chief in Bangkok. Also along was Thompson's nephew Henry, a stockbroker from New York. As they toured the ruins of the ancient city, Thompson discoursed at length on Thai culture and architecture, much to the amazement of the princess, who told him, "You know more about this country than I do, and I'm a native." Finally, they chanced on a man who was selling a small porcelain bowl. Henry was not impressed. "To me," he recalls, "It looked like something you would feed the cat from. But Uncle Jim was not deterred. He asked the man who owned it how much he wanted for it, and the man sald seventy-five dollars. Of course, you're supposed to bargain, but Jim never did. 'Pay the man seventy-five, Henry,' he said to me. When we got back to Bangkok, Jim had someone look at the bowl. Of course, it turned out to be Ming."

Thompson began construction on his new showcase for such finds in 1958. The residence, set on slightly more than an acre of ground directly across the klong from Bangkrua, was of his own design and consisted of six small. traditional Thai houses he had brought down by raft from Ayutthaya and linked together. But it was the art, and the manner in which Thompson displayed it, that was most impressive. Somerset Maugham, who came to dine one night, complimented him: "You have not only beautiful things, but what is rare, you have arranged them with faultless taste.'

Virtually every night there was a distinguished dinner guest at what came to be called the House on the Klong. If it was not Adlai Stevenson, then it was Ethel Merman, belting "Hello, Dolly!" to Cocky, the pet cockatoo, who perched on Thompson's shoulder and amused guests by sipping after-dinner liqueur. All came to bask in the presence of the Thai Silk King. He regaled them allcelebrities, friends, tourists he'd met that day in the shop-talking in a low-pitched monotone, the boarding-school accent impeccably intact. Years later his guests could still recount the evenings in detail: the drinks on the veranda, the cooled-down version of spicy Thai food served on a pair of inlaid gaming tables made for the palace of King Chulalongkorn, the servants bustling in and out on stockinged feet, the laughter and joking and smart conversation.

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But mostly they remembered Thompson. For all his bonhomic and seeming accessibility, there was a part of him, deep down and mysterious, they could never seem to know.

He was, according to the few people who really did know him, including Ed Black, who had stayed in the Army and came to Thailand as a general, an essentially lonely man. As nephew Henry put it, "He was the sort who sells tickets to the Christmas bash but never comes." He had his affairs (with men as well as women, say his friends), but there was always a distance. "People warn me about the future and how awful it is to live alone," he wrote to Elinor. Someday, he conceded, he might "turn into an eccentric old recluse and sit in the midst of my treasures," but for the moment he was content. "The people of Asia are so sensible and practical," he wrote. "There are never any great loves or romances here."

One of the other curiosities about Thompson was that for all the years he spent in Thailand, he never learned to speak more than a few phrases of the language. Yet, in most respects, he was more That than the That. He refused to refer to his adopted land by the name it had taken in 1939. To him it would always be Siam. Similarly, while many modern Siamese, as Thompson called them, were busily installing air conditioners. Thompson banned the contraptions from his home. Likewise, he mounted no screens against the mosquitoes that nightly swarmed in from the klong.

Temperamentally, he was just as quirky. Placid most of the time, he was nonetheless possessed of fearsome rage, and after a petty disagreement he refused to speak for more than a decade with one couple who had been among his closest friends. Yet with the Thai he was more understanding. At one point it was discovered that one of his oldest, most trusted Thai assistants was taking huge kickbacks and had been systematically looting the shop. Thomp-

son, however, refused to believe it—even after the assistant quit and opened up a silk shop of his own directly across from Thompson's establishment. Finally, the scoundrel went bankrupt, and Thompson, to the surprise of no one, hired him back. "Jim's attitude about things like that was very Thai," notes William Warren, his friend and biographer. "He simply pretended they didn't exist."

In his personal habits, Thompson lived with almost exaggerated simplicity. He dressed plainly and, despite his renowned dinner parties, was no gourmet. The press, which lionized him, referred continually to the "Thai Silk Millionaire," which was true only in the most literal sense of the word. He did have a million dollars, which was left to him by a distant cousin, and It sat in a Philadelphia bank. He touched it only once, when he withdrew \$58,000 to buy the land for his house. The rest of the time he lived off his salary, which, at the time of his disappearance, was only \$10,000 per year. Even the silk company was not truly his but was controlled instead by That investors. Thompson himself never owned more than 20 percent of the stock, and over the years he gave a number of his shares away.

His attitude was best expressed in his continuing letters home to Elinor. In 1948, when the demands of the silk business were beginning to overwhelm him, he wrote, "I have two Lao families so wrapped up in it for their livelihood that I feel duty bound to keep it going just for them if for nobody else. If I had pulled out, they would have nothing to live on, and their children couldn't go to school." Thirteen years later, after many of his employees had grown rich, started businesses of their own and sent their children off to college, he was still not ready to return to the States. "I am afraid," he wrote, "that I like backward places that need to be developed better than all the high-powered superhighways, motels and gigantic cities at home. I do love the color and general confusion of the Far East. There is so much to see and learn out here. Also, I do feel that I am being useful." But there was a trace of wistfulness, of somehow feeling out of place. "My life," he confided to his sister, "seems miles apart from anybody else's."

The spring of 1967 was a very busy time for Thompson. In addition to managing the silk business and the usual crowd of tourists, he was supervising the construction of a new and vastly expanded shop. The cottage industry he had discovered two decades before now employed 20,000 weavers nationwide and brought millions to the Thai economy. But whatever pride Thompson felt was leavened by exhaustion. So on Easter weekend, he wangled an invitation to visit old friends in Malaysia.

The cool of the country's Cameron Highlands, nearly 7,000 feet above sea level, has long made the area a favored retreat for the sweltering residents of Bangkok and Singapore. During colonial times the British in Malaya (as it was then called) sent troops there on convalescent leave, and their presence, which lingered on through the 1960s. gave the lush green valleys and jungled hills a faintly English air. But beyond the golf courses and good hotels, most of the Highlands remained wild. There were tigers and cobras and tribes of aborigines who hunted with blowguns and poisoned darts. But it was the jungle itself-vast and trackless, laced with creeper vines and hidden ravines 100 feet deep-that was most forbidding. Even today hikers who dare to chance it are given a list of warnings. The first is the most important: "Never walk alone."

Thompson appreciated the beauty and peace of the place, as did his host, T. G. Ling, a Chinese doctor from Singapore, and his American-born wife, Helen. In 1960 they had acquired a Tudorstyle bungalow at the crest of a lovely ridge. The place was called

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Moonlight Cottage, a name that belied its bloody past. During Malaya's Communist insurrection in the 1950s. Moonlight had served as command post for one of the guerrilla groups, and in the garden where Helen now grevy roses, summary executions had taken place.

Thompson had stayed with the Lings on two occasions before and particularly enjoyed daily treks through the jungle. Though he was 61 and not in the best of health (he suffered from gallstones and had just recovered from a bout of pneumonia), he prided himself on his stamina and his knowledge of bush lore.

His first morning in the Highlands, Thompson and Dr. Ling set off down one of the trails. It was a new one, and before long, the two men were lost. Eventually. Thompson spotted a stream and, following accepted practice, traced it until it brought them to more familiar surroundings. The adventure, however brief, was elating, and the rest of that day and evening Thompson was in ebullient spirits.

The next morning, Easter Sunday, they all attended services at a small Anglican church, then returned to the cottage to prepare a hamper for a picnic that had been planned the day before. The picnic had been his idea, but Thompson seemed unaccountably restless, and they had hardly finished lunch before he was gathering up the plates and rejecting all pleas that they linger for a nap in the sun.

It was 2:30 when they got back to the cottage. The Lings retired to their bedroom, leaving Jim sitting in the living room. Shortly after three p.m., the Lings heard footsteps crunching on the gravel driveway. They assumed Jim was going for a walk. Thinking nothing of it, they drifted off to sleep.

Alarmed when Thompson failed to return by nightfall, the Lings alerted the local police, and early the next morning a handful of officers began combing the area. More searchers, including a group of British soldiers on leave in the Highlands, quickly joined in, and by Monday afternoon nearly a hundred people were

crisserossing the trails, crying "Jim! Jim!" There was no reply, nor any sign of his presence, not so much as a single footprint or broken twig. Nor, to their relief, were any vultures circling overhead.

The next day, Tuesday, the search party was augmented by the arrival of a sizable contingent of Malaysian Field Force police, along with 30 local aborigines who knew the jungle trails intimately. By the end of the day, almost 400 people-the largest search party ever mounted in Malaysia-were looking for Thompson, among them a bomoh, or witch doctor. After going into a trance, he declared that the missing American was alive but held captive by evil spirits in the jungle.

On Wednesday General Ed Black flew down from his head-quarters in northeastern Thailand to take over personal command of the effort. He brought with him three military helicopters, but they proved of little use in the dense triple-canopy jungle.

By then, Thompson's disappearance was making front-page headlines around the world. In Bangkok the news was greeted with shock by some, but by many others with mirth. Jim, mischievous devil that he was, must surely be playing a prank. In a day or two, certainly not more than a week, he would be back, entertaining his dinner guests with tales of his latest adventure.

But a week passed, and Thompson did not return, and around Bangkok people suddenly began to worry. His friends put up \$10,000 reward money for information leading to Thompson's recovery; the sum was later increased to \$25,000. There were less conventional stratagems as well. At one point, several days after Thompson's disappearance, a young Thai woman presented herself at the Thai Silk Company and said that if she were given use of a room, she would reveal Thompson's whereabouts at that very moment. Willing to try anything, Silk Company executives complied. The lights were dimmed, candles and joss sticks were lit, and the woman hung on the wall a square of white cloth on which, she claimed, Thompson's employees would be able to see their boss "just like on TV." They saw nothing. The woman, however, claimed to have observed Thompson quite clearly. He was being held at gunpoint, she announced, by two young men.

In the Highlands, meanwhile, the search was continuing with no more success than before, and ominous new questions were being raised. Why, for example, had Thompson, a chain smoker, left his cigarettes in his room? The suspicions deepened after the arrival of Richard Noone, a British planning officer with SEATO in Bangkok. A Cambridge-trained anthropologist with considerable experience in the Highlands, Noone brought along a border scout from North Borneo and an abortgine bomoh who had once helped him locate a missing man in the jungle. For 36 hours they trekked deep into the bush and interviewed a number of aborigines. When Noone emerged, he stated flatly, "I am fully convinced that Mr. Thompson is not lost in the jungle.

That seemed to eliminate another theory, floated briefly, that Thompson had committed sulcide. His friends insisted that, whatever his troubles, depression was not one of them. There was only one other possibility: He had been kidnapped. The question was by whom?

That point was still being argued when in mid-April a most redoubtable figure entered the case. His name was Peter Hurkos. A Dutchman, Hurkos was at that time perhaps the most famous psychic in the world, largely because of his role in helping to track the notorious Boston Strangler. Hurkos did not succeed in identifying the strangler, but he did provide the police with harrowingly accurate descriptions of several of the murders and managed, simply by touching one of the many confession letters that came in, to provide a precise description of the writer. Hurkos also told the police intimate things about themselves, such as

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informing one young officer, correctly, that a few hours earlier he had been making love to his wife on the kitchen table. Hurkos evidently was a man with considerable gifts, and Thompson's famlly, frustrated by the lack of progress in the case, brought him to Asia.

On his arrival at Moonlight Cottage, Hurkos paced the house and garden restlessly, as if searching for psychic clues. Finally, he sat down on the veranda and laid out a photograph of Thompson and two maps, one of Asia, the other of the Highlands. His face tensed. Then all at once he began talking, the words gushing out in disconnected bursts.

He was sitting in the chair ... right there ... he was not sitting in the house ... the chair was on the veranda . . . ag, Prebt, oogh . . . Thompson ... Prebl, Pridi ... fourteen people . . . fourteen people captured him . . . he is not in the jungle....

After some minutes Hurkos completed his vision and then began to amplify and clarify his story. According to the William Warren biography, the psychic declared that Thompson had been met on the veranda by a man he knew. They had walked down the road together; then, after half a mile or so, the man suddenly knocked Thompson out with morphine. At that point a truck, disguised to look like a Malaysian army vehicle, pulled up with 13 men inside dressed in green uniforms. The men, claimed Hurkos, were Communists, and after hustling Thompson aboard the truck, they took him somewhere, then moved him out of the country by plane. A few minutes later, while he was drinking coffee, Hurkos jumped up and pointed at one of the maps. "There!" he exclaimed excitedly. "That's where he is now! Cambodia! That's where he is. I'd give my neck on it."

The press, meanwhile, was quickly coming to similar conclusions. The Asian edition of LIFE suggested that Thompson might have been captured so that the Communists could brainwash him and then produce him as a defector, denouncing the U.S.

presence in Thailand. Given Thompson's influence, the government might be persuaded to close the U.S. air bases in Thailand that were then being used to pulverize North Vietnam.

There were other speculations in Bangkok, encouraged in part by Hurkos's mention of "Prebi, Pridi," whom the That naturally took to be the former prime minister. Suppose Pridi had arranged to meet Thompson in the Highlands, to sound him out on the possibility of mounting a new coup. According to this scenario, Thompson discouraged his old friend. at which point Pridi, worried that Thompson might talk, kidnapped him. The only problem with the story was that Pridi, later questioned in Paris, resolutely and convincingly denied any knowledge of what had befallen Thompson.

The most tantalizing and perststent theory linked Thompson's disappearance to Vietnam. Around Bangkok his involvement with, and sympathies for, various Indochinese nationalists was well known. It was also said that he was a personal friend of Ho Chi Minh's, a frequently repeated assertion that Thompson, typically, neither confirmed nor denied. According to General Black, one of the few people Thompson confided in about political matters, he was also close to the Cambodian leader, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, and "helped Sihanouk get a better deal from the French than either the Lao or the Vietnamese got." Moreover, Thompson had also spent considerable time in Laos and, Black says, "was the only man who could get the three Lao princes [neutralist, pro-Western and Communist] to sit down at the same dinner table." Adding to the Vietnam speculation was Thompson's correspondence with Elinor, which, at least during his early days in Bangkok. was frequently and bitterly critical of U.S. policy. At one point Thompson suggested that the U.S. ambassador, a particularly gungho anti-Communist, "should have his neck wrung." In another letter, Thompson bemoaned the fact that the U.S. "always seems to back the wrong horse. It makes me sick," he added, "to see these little countries get torn to pieces by the Communist powers and us.

Yet before his disappearance, Thompson's ardor for the Indochinese cause seemed to have cooled. At one dinner party he delivered a tongue-lashing to a prominent New York visitor, Marletta Tree, who had been condemning the U.S. role in Vietnam as immoral. "His expressed attitude," says a friend, "was that it was probably a mistake for us to be there, but now that we were there, we couldn't leave. What he really believed, God only knows."

The speculations, in any case, did not assist in finding him, and after 10 days the search in the Highlands was formally terminated. Unofficially, the hunt continued, not only in the Highlands, where the arrival of assorted bomohs had created a bizarre, carnival air, but also in Bangkok. where the various explanations for Thompson's disappearance ranged from being captured by a love-starved Malaysian princess to having offended the gods by placing an incorrect spirit at the top of his house. A British mind reader, then appearing in a Bangkok nightclub, stated with equal certainty that Thompson, in the manner of an old elephant, had gone into the jungle looking for a secret place to die. Another report had Thompson living in Peking, having traveled there at the invitation of the Chinese government. which had paid him \$1 million (supposedly on deposit at a Hong Kong bank) to establish a Chinese rival to the Thal silk industry. All of the stories-and there were dozens-were checked out. All of them came to naught.

Thompson's friends, however, remained determined. One theory that particularly captured their attention came from an Australian nightclub performer and former major in the British Army named Robert McGowan. McGowan claimed that, in a vision, he had seen Thompson being held captive in a two-story

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house in Stung Treng, Cambodia. There are many two-story houses in Cambodia, but this one was identifiable, according to McGowan, because there was a wagon wheel leaning against it. Several of Thompson's friends, including Maxine North and a pilot for the CIA's Air America, were prepared to take him seriously, particularly after McGowan demonstrated his extrasensory bona dides by driving through Bangkok's hectic traffic—blindfolded.

The plan they hatched called for the Air America pilot to feign engine trouble over Stung Treng, land, find the house with the wagon wheel, then, with the aid of a Gurkha lieutenant who had been recruited for the expedition, burst in and rescue Thompson. But before the scheme could be put into operation, the CIA got wind of it and stopped the flight. Undaunted, the Gurkha lieutenant made his way to Stung Treng and spent two weeks there in a vain search for a two-story house with a wagon wheel leaning against it.

Then in late August, just as the leads were beginning to diminish, there occurred a grisly tragedy that reignited interest in the case. In Bucks County, Pa., Thompson's eldest sister, Katherine-the ex-daughter-in-law of the former governor-general of the Philippines, Leonard Wood-was found bludgeoned to death. Thompson and his sister were not close, and the police discounted any connection between his disappearance and her death, but that did not deter the more conspiratorial observers of the matter. In their minds, there had to be a link. After all, they pointed out, Katherine's farmhouse had been ransacked, but her valuables had been left untouched, as if her killer were looking for something-revealing letters from her brother, perhaps.

Katherine's killer was never found, the link was never proved, and as time passed, even the most diehard of Thompson's friends gradually began to give up hope. Finally, in 1974, seven years after Thompson's disappearance, a Thai court, at the request of Thompson's family, declared the Thai Silk King legally dead.

But his legend, and the mystery of what became of him, live on. While Thompson's family, and many of his associates, are now prepared to accept an innocent explanation for his disappearance—he was lost, fell down a ravine, was eaten by a tiger—there are just as many others who will never buy it.

Thompson's friend Richard Hughes, the late, fabled Hong Kong correspondent for the London Sunday Times, went to his grave believing that Thompson was on a mission for the CIA when he disappeared. Hughes's reasoning was simple. Thompson had been a "spook" for the OSS, and, as Hughes put it in one of the many columns he wrote about the Thompson case, "once a CIA man, always a CIA man."

Thompson's family wondered about a possible CIA link as well, and several months after his disappearance made discreet inquiries with officials in Washington. The agency professed ignorance about Thompson's fate and insisted that he had no CIA affiliation. But an agency man assured one of Thompson's Bangkok friends, "You can be certain we are turning over every rock looking for him. Jim was OSS. He was

General Black, now retired, is not satisfied. "Jimmy," he notes, "was a loval alumnus of OSS, and if the government wanted him to do anything, he would have done it. He wouldn't have minded if it was a little bit dangerous. That would have been stimulating to him." Black is still troubled by the U.S. government's handling of the case. Embassy personnel in both Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital, he says, "showed a singular lack of interest in doing anything remotely active. I knew them pretty well," he goes on, "but I couldn't get anywhere with them. They were completely unhelpful. The State Department was afraid of making political waves. Their attitude was, the sooner the Thompson case was forgotten, the better." Black reports running into similar stonewalling from the CIA. "I couldn't get anywhere

with those guys," he recalls. "They were patting me on the head, trying to give me the runaround. It was as if they knew something that I didn't know, or couldn't Jeopardize their careers because this was a politically sensitive thing." Black shrugs. "Maybe they knew he was dead."

The CIA still refuses to comment on Thompson, other than to say that the agency's files contain 'a number of items" about him. The agency refuses to divulge those items, however, under a law that empowers it to keep secret official titles, salaries or numbers of personnel employed by the agency." Thompson himself never discussed his intelligence connections, past or present. "His attitude about OSS," says a friend, was that it was a closed chapter, and he didn't want to talk about it." Once, though, he did make jocular reference to an alleged CIA affiliation. In a 1960 letter to Elinor he reported that the king's mother and the minister of the interior had been trying to obtain a decoration from the Thai government for him, but that it was unlikely he would get it, because the minister of foreign affairs believed he was working for the CIA. Thompson commented, "If I did, I would really be the boy wonder. I don't know how they think I have the time to do all my sleuthing around in addition to the silk and tourist business.'

Whatever the truth of Thompson's identity and whether or not the CIA was involved in his disappearance, his friends agree on one fact: Thompson would have relished the controversy. He was a man who was aware of his legend and, according to his friend William Warren, worked hard to perpetuate it. "He built up the character that was Jim Thompson," Warren said in Bangkok one re-cent humid night. "He embroidered stories. He let people wonder whether he might or might not be a spook. Actually, he wanted them to believe it. It made him larger than life. He was bored with the truth, and when he disappeared, it caught up with him."

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Bangkok today is very different from the "Oriental country town" Jim Thompson fell in love with. Most of the klongs that made it "the Venice of the East" have been filled in to better accommodate the traffic that makes it seem more like the Los Angeles of Asia. The formerly ramshackle old Oriental Hotel has been expanded and modernized into what, according to a survey of American bankers, is the finest in the world. It probably would amuse Thompson to know that a \$300-per-night suite has been christened in his honor.

Thompson's silk company continues to thrive, selling 10 times the volume it did before his disappearance. But the weavers of Bangkrua are mostly gone, victims of progress and their own prosperity. Today most of the work is done up-country in a factory that Thompson, with his love of the old ways, would have hated. Everything has changed in Bangkok, perhaps for the better, perhaps for the worse.

One thing, though, remains the same. They still talk about Jim Thompson, still wonder what happened to him on that sunny Easter afternoon. A Frenchman and a Japanese have written novels based on Thompson's life, and the BBC has made a movie. The best account—Warren's 1970 blography, The Legendary American—continues to sell, and the author says he gets dozens of letters each year, many of them offering

explanations of their own. Maxine North, who still has that shimmering lavender silk dress she bought 34 years ago, insists that the CIA has a man in Bangkok, detailed to do nothing else except "keep what happened to Jim under wraps."

der wraps."

At the House on the Klong. they don't pay much attention to any of this. Jim's servants know that he is coming back. While they wait, they maintain his house as a museum in which nothing has been changed. "You know. Jim's, temper," explains Henry, his nephew and heir. "He'd hate having his things moved." The dining room table is set, as if the master and his guests are expected for dinner. His clothes remain in the closets, and at night the lights in the living room still burn bright. If one day you go to Bangkok, there is a young Thai girl who will show you Jim's treasures, and if, as surely you will, you ask her what happened to the That Silk King, she will giggle nervously, as the Thai do when they are anxious not to offend. And then she will say, "Nobody knows." +

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### ADVENTURE

WEEKENDER / 19

## On Thompson's trail

The dense jungle rolls away relent-lessly on all sides, green and silent, roadless and dangerous: there are ti-gers in it, and hidden ravines a hun-dred feet deep, and tribes of elusive aborigines who still hunt with blow-guns and poisoned darts along the secret trails."— from Jim Thomp-son, the Legendary American of Thailand by William Warren.

T WAS in this jungle that Jim Thompson disappeared without a trace. In the same dark jungle I walked alone on a silent, wet day wondering what had happened to

him.

I knew how foolish I was to traipse off alone, yet I could not help it. Something perverse in me threw caution to the wind. It seemed important that I roam the jungle in Cameron Highlands so close to where another American, a famous one, had last been seen alive.

That I'd been to Thompson's home in Bangkok and learned of his mysin Bangkok and learned of his hys-terious disappearance not far from where I now scanned the trees for signs of dangling snakes made it all the more seductive. I wondered if his feet had touched the same path

his feet had touched the same path as mine before he died.

Jim Thompson, born in 1906 in Greenville, Delaware, the United States, founded the Thai silk trade. A tribute to his memory lingers in the large house he built in Bangkok by combining six different Thai homes. It is now a museum.

homes. It is now a museum.

But as beautiful as the house is But as beautiful as the house is with its Asian antique furnishings, it is the man who evokes curiosity and wonder. A stable man, Thompson was an adventure too; a businessman, yet an artist; a Western man, yet a man of the East.

Just before World War II ended, he practised jungle survival with the OSS, a precursor to the CIA, in preparation for a drop in Thailand.

Some say he made enemies from

Some say he made enemies from those early connections, and they fi-nally caught up with him in the Cam-







map of Siam; a floor of Italian man

map of Siam; a floor of Italian mar-ble; huge, carved front doors; a Chi-nese dining table with Chippendale-style chairs; and Chinese porcelain brought up from a sunken ship.

Theories of his disappearance abound. He stumbled into quicksand. He fell off a steep hill into a valley. He is not dead; a man of his descrip-tion was reportedly seen in China.

Searchers fanned out through the jungle for 10 days following his dis-appearance. Helicopters seen called in. But the jungle, dense and myste-rious, held on to its secrets. No clue was ever found, no piece of clothing, no footprint, nothing.

In his shirtsleeves, Thompson had

In his shirtsleeves, Thompson had



Fascinated by the legend of 'Silk King' Jim CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS follows his trail which leads from

in Bangkok and learned of his mysterious disappearance not far from where I now scanned the trees for signs of dangling anakes made it all the more seductive. I wondered it his feet had touched the same path as mine before be died.

Jim Thompson, born in 1906 in Greenville, Delaware, the United States, founded the Thai silk trade. A tribute to his memory lingers in the large house he built in Bangkok by combining six different Thai bomes. It is now a museum.

But as beautiful as the house is with its Asian antique furnishings, it is the man who evokes curiosity and wonder. A stable man, Thompson was an adventurer too; a businessman, yet an artist; a Western man, yet a man of the East.

Just before World War II ended, he practised jungle survival with the JOSS, a precursor to the CIA, in preparation for a drop in Thailand.

Some say be made enemies from those early, connections, and they finally caught up with him in the Cameron Highlands. But that explanation seems unlikely, as kidnappershad a chance at him the morning before he disappeared, but did not take it.

The war ended as Thompson flew Thailand, so instead of finding inself in the jungle he found himhimself in the jungle he found him-self in Bangkok. For about a year he was there as OSS station chief. With another American, he set up a tem-porary consulate until a permanent one could be established. But, more importantly, he devel-oped a taste for Thailand and planned to return after his discharge to join a partnership to restore the old Oriental Hotel. He did return, but had a falling out

old Oriental Hotel.

He did return, but had a falling out with one of the partners, and scrapped his interest in the hotel. His wife in America had divorced him. Having nothing to draw him back bome, be turned his energies to promoting a new business: Thai silk. At that time, weavers were finding

promoting a new business: Thai silk.

At that time, weavers were finding other types of work, as there was no silk trade to speak of. A collector, Thompson had been gathering bits of the colourful silk and set out to make a business of it.

Thompson travelled from the buts on the dirty klongs (canals), where weavers blended the silks, to the ornate lobbies of expensive hotels in New York and Europe where, with the silks draped over his arm, he found buyers. found buyers

He refused to uproot his weavers He refused to uproot ms weavers from their village-within-Bangkok and shuffle them off into a factory, arguing that the quality would suf-fer. And he dug in his heels when friends suggested the weavers stop





washing the silks in the smelly klong water, replying that the water produced the shine in the silks. But, he did institute two noteworthy changes. One, he introduced European dyes, which were colour-fast. Two, he convinced the weavers to change to a faster method, using a foot operated shuttle. Through all of this, he applied his artistis sense of colour, laboriously trying various combinations of threads. Another boost came in 1948 when players in the Broadway musical, The King and I, wore costumes made of Thompson's Thai silk. By the time he disappeared in 1967, he had become famous throughout South-east Asia and in the United States. But Jim Thompson was more than the "Silk King" he came to be called in Bangkok. A gregarious man, he frequently rounded up eight to 10 people for dinner at his home. Foreigners, including Somerset Maugham, knew his was the house to visit when they landed in Bangkok. He welcomed everyone. Thompson made friends not only with the Thais, but also with a number of Laotinns, and frequently took trips to visit them in north-eastern Thailand. He loved to visit old ruins, and he was an avid collector of antiques.

tiques.

He would go upriver to hunt down antiques in the old Thai capital of Ayuthya. And when he moved from his small house to the one he built, it

was mainly because he wanted more room for his collection. The teak house, pieced together from six traditional That homes, be-came a tourist attraction. He opened it to mubility trust true days a week

came a tourist attraction. He opened it to public tours two days a week while he still lived in it, donating the proceeds to the blind.

The pieces in this old style of house fit together without nails. If an owner moved, Thompson simply took the house apart, loaded it onto a boat, and poled down the klong to the new location. He put together six of these, including one from Ayuthya.

The house is now open as a museum from 9am to 4.30pm every day excent Sundays. Each room at one

um from 9am to 4.30pm every day except Sundays. Each room at one time was a complete Thai house, in keeping with their tradition of having only one room in their bomes. The walls and cabinets slant inward at the top because the Thais believe this makes them more stable.

Our guide, Wannee Sirihongthong, explained that the thresholds in the house were raised to keep out evil spirits.

spirits

On the wall in Thompson's study On the wall in Thompson's study two horoscopes attest to his Asian ways. The first proclaims the proper date for moving into the house — Friday, April 3, 1959. The other is his own horoscope. He was born in the Year of the Horse.

Other attractions include a small room containing a wooden spinning wheel for silk and a high wooden table for offerings to Buddha; a 1686

map of Siam, a floor of Italian marble, huge, carved front doors, a Chirese dining table with Chuppendalestyle chairs, and Chinese porcelain
brought up from a nunken slip.

Theories of Ihis disappearance
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He fell off a steep hill into a valley.
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was ever found, no piece of clothing,
no footprint, onking.

In his shirtsleeves, Thompson had
left the house of Friends while they
napped in the afternoon, leaving behind his cigarettes, jacket and medication for painful galistone attacks.

Orang asil were deplayed by the
police to help with the search as they
were more attuned to the jungle.

The search itself could not have
covered every inch of ground, as the
foliage was too dense. But one cannot lept but wonder why not a trace,
not even footprints, were found.
Vears ago, this odd lack of evidence
led to the conclusion that Thompson
never entered the jungle, but was
whisked away by captors in automobiles.

No one will ever know. biles.
No one will ever know.

No one will ever know.

My own journey through the jungle became frightening when, after
two bours, I still had not seen anyone
on the trail, and I hadn't reached the
top of a hill which looked on the map
like a halfway point in the loop. I'd
started late, and it had rained. For a
moment I stopped, and listening to
the fluttering sounds of vegetation
moving in the wind, I considered going back. I could still make it back
before nightfall. What I feared most
was sitting out the long dark night
alone in a wet jungle crawling with
snakes.

The top coulded the top feared with snakes.

The top couldn't be too far away. 1

The top couldn't be too far away. I wanted to complete the loop, and so I pressed on. When, at lust, I emerged into a clearing with signs pointing different directions, I felt my body slump in relief. I had made it.

At that moment when I left the dense brush and trees behind, I felt I'd finished something. Something Jim Thompson began in 1967.



Fascinated by the legend of 'Silk King' Jim CHARLOTTE his trail which leads from Bangkok to Cameron Highlands.

Pictures by CHARLOTTE WILLIAMS

@ AROVE LEFT: photographs of Thompson of table in his · ABOVE RIGHT: Thompson's six-in-one house in Bangkok, which is now a museum

LEFT: The living area in Thompson's house



Posted October 23, 2002:

#### The Saga of the Thai Silk King

Twenty years later, James Thompson '28's disappearance remains a mystery Originally published in PAW (Princeton Alumni Weekly) May 6, 1987

By Mark Jenkins

Mark Jenkins, a free-lance writer based in Boston, was born, raised, and educated in the Far East. This article is based on conversations with Thompson's friends and relatives, including Connie Mangskau and Henry Thompson III, and William Weaver's biography, The Legendary American: The Remarkable Career and Strange Disappearance of Jim Thompson (Houghton Mifflin).

Thailand's tropical sunset casts its final rays into the Bangkok household on the banks of the "River of Kings," and the half light catches polished wooden carvings and freshly cut flowers. Out of respect for their master. the faithful servants maintain the house as it was in 1967 — the year the owner, James Thompson '28, vanished.

The disappearance of Thompson, one of the most celebrated and flamboyant members of Asia's expatriate community, was so sudden and mysterious that it seemed as if he had literally walked off the face of the earth. His unusual career and the curious circumstances surrounding his vanishing two decades ago have fueled a widespread fascination with the still unsolved case. Indeed, documentaries on the story have been made by American, Japanese, and British film companies. William Weaver's biography, The Legendary American: The Remarkable Career and Strange Disappearance of Jim Thompson, was reprinted this year. and there is talk of a feature movie. In Thailand the story has become part of local legend.

Thompson's upbringing provided no clue of the exotic life he would lead. Born into a prominent Delaware family in 1906, he followed the prescribed route of a young man of his class and bearing, from lessons with governesses in the family mansion to prepping at St. Paul's. He entered Princeton in 1924, in the footsteps of his father. Henry B. Thompson 1877, and brother, Henry Jr. '20. His father, a lifetime trustee of the university, served as chairman of the Grounds and Buildings Committee. During his tenure many of the campus's distinctive Gothic buildings were added. His son Jim also was interested in design and majored in architecture.

From 1931 to 1940, Thompson worked for a New York architectural firm. Many of the Georgian-style mansions along the Eastern Seaboard that he designed are admired to this day. By all accounts, he was also a social success, well-known at debutante balls, hunting parties, and the theater. "Jim was quite the man about town," attested Alexander Griswold '28. "There was never a shortage of women trying to win his favor."

In 1938 he became a director of the Monte Carlo Ballet Company, the forerunner of the New York City Ballet. Thanks to a sizable inheritance, he. was able to indulge his fancy even during the Depression. But by the end of the decade, he withdrew from the city's social whirl and

criticized those who remained caught up in it. He became reclusive, refusing to talk even to family and college friends. "We didn't really know what came over Jimmy," said his sister Elinor Douglas. "But it seemed to be a great burden." Finally, Thompson quit his job and enlisted as a private in the National Guard. He finished basic training, attended OCS school and was commissioned, served for a year in a coastal artillery unit, and then was recruited by the Office of Strategic Services (OSS).

In 1942 Thompson married Pat Thraves, an ex-Powers model who shared his artistic interests. They were married for only six months when he was shipped to North Africa to assist the French war effort. His training in guerrilla warfare also took him to France and Italy, and eventually he headed a special unit ordered to parachute into the jungles of Thailand, link forces with the Free Thai resistance. and overthrow the pro-Japanese government in Bangkok. As it turned out, he was never required to do battle in Thailand. He and his comrades were en route when their pilot received word of the Japanese surrender. When he finally arrived in Bangkok, it was in the capacity of OSS station chief. His first task was to establish a temporary American consulate.

There is no doubt that Thompson was immediately captivated by Thailand, its culture and customs. Bangkok was an exotic city, and within days he convinced himself that he had no desire to return to America. One of his first friends was a young Eurasian widow, Connie Mangskau, who worked as an interpreter for the Allied Forces. Their close

friendship lasted until the day of his disappearance. "Jimmy was enraptured by Bangkok," said Mangskau. "it was as if he had finally arrived somewhere he had belonged all along." As the re-occupation forces began withdrawing from Thailand, he cast around for an excuse to stay.

Thompson revealed his feelings in a letter to Elinor: "I am afraid that I like backward places that need to be developed far better than all the high-powered superhighways, motels, and great cities back home. There is so much to see and learn here." In early 1946, he and five other entrepreneurs bought the Oriental, Bangkok's legendary hotel, a former palace that had been featured in the work of writers such as Maugham, Conrad, Greene, and Coward.

Thompson returned to the U.S. to arrange his discharge from the OSS and to persuade his wife to go back with him to Thailand. The discharge presented no problem, but the couple's extended separation had taken its toll. Patricia refused to move to the Far East, and they divorced. With no reason to remain in the States, Thompson returned to his new-found home on the other side of the world.

He threw himself into the task of refurbishing the Oriental, drawing extensively from his background in architecture and design. He had strong disagreements with his partners over renovations, however, and within the year he resigned from the group, Nevertheless, he continued to live at the Oriental for another year, and his association with the hotel continued until his disappearance.

Thompson soon found another outlet for his considerable talents. The production of silk. in Thailand had suffered severely in the '40s with the influx of cheap fabrics from Europe and Japan. Thompson believed he could rescue the centuries-old industry from extinction and build himself a business empire rooted firmly in the soil of Thai culture.

With a suitcase crammed full of samples of the spectacularly colored silks, he flew to New York in early 1947. Through his network of Princeton friends he secured an interview with Edna Chase, editor of Vogue and the undisputed doyen of American fashion. She was captivated by the exotic fabrics and immediately arranged for them to be featured in her magazine. The enthusiastic reaction to Vogue's coverage convinced Thompson that there was a market for his product in the West. His next task was to find the means to satisfy the demand.

He returned to Thailand and located as many weavers as possible. Most were skeptical about the chances of reviving the dying craft. Nevertheless, in 1948, Thompson formed the Thai Silk Company and within a year had 200 weavers employed. Under his guidance the industry went through a revolution during the next 20 years. He initiated many technical advances in silk production, most significantly replacing traditional vegetable dyes with expensive, nonfading Swiss varieties.

Thompson's enthusiasm for Thai silk, however, was what really popularized the product. It was not unusual to spot him in the lobby of the Oriental, swathed in the brightly colored fabric, delivering an impassioned speech to passing tourists. Mangskau, who by this time (and with his assistance) was a successful antiques dealer, recalled his antics: "I was walking through the Oriental, where Jimmy had trapped yet another tourist — a rather well-proportioned American woman I think it was. He was standing behind her, wrapping her in silks and complimenting her continually while he made awful faces in my direction." Inevitably, the tourists bought.

Soon his silk was very much in the Western public eye. Thompson was commissioned to provide fabric for costumes for the Broadway production of The King and I and for the movie Ben Hur. London's Savoy Hotel used Thai silk to upholster its luxurious suites, and Pierre Balmain dedicated a whole collection to the fabric. By 1960 Thompson had fulfilled his dream. He was referred to as the "Thai Silk King" throughout the world and in Bangkok simply as the "Millionaire American." He recounted his success story for Time, Life, and Newsweek.

Knowledgeable about the politics of the region, Thompson was often sought out by embassy officials. A soft-spoken man, he had a captivating personality, and his circle of friends included the rich, royal, and famous. Celebrities made a point of including Bangkok on their travel itineraries, and he would invite them to sumptuous dinner parties at his house. His guests included Senator William Fulbright, Somerset Maugham, Cecil Beaton, Truman Capote, and Barbara Hutton.

Mangskau believed that Thompson kept up this lavish social life as "a way of surrounding himself with people. I think he was a very lonely man." His nephew and heir, Henry Thompson III '46. who visited him in Bangkok and hosted him on his annual visits to New York. recalls, "Uncle Jim would stand on the fringes of a group of people having a roaring good time and just observe them dispassionately."

Besides reviving the Thai silk industry, Thompson is credited with creating popular interest in Oriental antiquities, which at the time were virtually unknown outside the realm of experts and museum-goers. He had a penchant for traditional Thai painting, which, like silk weaving, was an art facing extinction. His collection came to be recognized as the finest in the world. (Selected pieces formed an exhibition that toured U.S. museums under the sponsorship of the State Department.) He maintained it in a home that was equally impressive. It was built in the traditional Thai style from sections of partly ruined palaces. Bangkok society had never seen anything like it, but both the local and expatriate elite followed his lead. The house is still a landmark in Bangkok, a vivid tribute to his imagination and inventiveness.

In late 1966 Thompson was forced to relocate his silk business. It was a time-consuming and tiring process, for he was not in the best of health. The following spring, Mangskau suggested they take a short vacation in Malaysia's Cameron Highlands, and Thompson jumped at the idea. The highlands are famous throughout the Far East as a place to escape the heat and humidity. The rolling green golf courses and tiny bungalows surrounded by manicured rose gardens are more evocative of pastoral English countryside than the teeming cities of Asia.

Their hosts were Dr. and Mrs. Ling, a couple from Singapore who owned "Moonlight Cottage" in the former colonial hill station. Thompson had stayed there before. Despite the enthusiasm with which he greeted this vacation, it was obvious that something was preoccupying him. Mangskau recalled that he was in an awful frame of mind during their journey, and though she didn't know what was wrong, she said that he wasn't his usual self. "I could tell something was up."

Ort-the day of his disappearance, he was especially restless and irritable, according to his companions. They all had agreed to attend the Easter service at the village church, but when the time came Thompson seemed reluctant. He finally insisted on walking to the chapel by himself and set off long before the others. After the service they picnicked in a field near the church, but Thompson seemed eager to return to the cottage. Before they had even finished eating, he was repacking the picnic basket. His behavior cut short the afternoon, and they returned to the cottage at about 2:00 p.m. The others were mystified by his uncharacteristic rudeness.

As is the custom on a lazy tropical afternoon, Mangskau and the Lings retired to their rooms for a nap before dinner. They left Thompson in an agitated state. It was the last time they ever saw him.

Just as the Lings were failing asleep, they heard the sound of an aluminum chair being dragged across the veranda. They assumed Thompson had decided to rest in the sun. When they heard footsteps crunching down the gravel path a few minutes later, they guessed that he was taking a stroll — he liked to hike the trails — and thought nothing of it.

Thompson's companions awoke to find him gone. They assumed he would be back by five o'clock, in time for afternoon tea. When he did not return by then, Dr. Ling drove to the golf club to see if he was having a drink there. The staff assured him that Thompson had not been at the club that afternoon. Ling then notified the police that he was missing. They said that with nightfall approaching, it was useless to begin a search. All they could do was put the word out to surrounding villages to keep an eye out for an unfamiliar foreigner. The Lings and Mangskau did not sleep that night. They kept a vigil in the living room, fully expecting Thompson to come marching through the door at any moment.

The official search began the next morning. It was an incredibly difficult undertaking, given the jungle terrain and the lack of any clues as to which direction he was walking. The first day's effort by local police and a number of volunteers was fruitless.

The following day, at the instigation of Thompson's former OSS colleagues, U.S. helicopters were dispatched to the Cameron Highlands. They joined what became the biggest manhunt in Malaysian history: it included 325 police and members of the Malaysian Field Force, 30 aborigine trackers, and all the children from the local missionary school.

At first everyone connected with the case assumed that Thompson had gone hiking in the jungle and lost his way. It was conjectured that he had fallen into a ravine, was eaten by a tiger, or disappeared into an aborigine animal trap. There were no signs of a struggle, and that — coupled with Mrs. Ling's assurance that she heard him walking alone down the driveway — supported this theory.

But it had its implausible aspects, too. Thompson was an expert in jungle warfare who regularly trekked in that kind of terrain, even in his later years. If he had met with an accident in the jungle. scavenging birds and animals would have alerted trackers to the whereabouts of his body. And, though a chain smoker, Thompson had left his cigarettes and

lighter behind. as well as a container of painkillers which he relied on to relieve chronic gallstone attacks. These facts caused people to wonder whether he had indeed gone off voluntarily.

The argument that Thompson had died in the jungle was finally laid to rest when L Richard Noone got involved in the case. A Cambridge-educated anthropologist with much experience in Malaysia who had served as chairman of the Aborigine Affairs Commission, he arrived on the scene with a border scout from Borneo and an aborigine bomoh (witch doctor) who had once helped him find a missing man in the jungle. Thompson's OSS colleagues had recruited Noone to find out whether a Thompson had fallen into an illegal aborigine animal trap, and if so, whether the natives had disposed of his body. Noone was authorized to assure the aborigines immunity from prosecution. He emerged from the jungle 36 hours after beginning his search and announced that the aborigines had assured him that Thompson had not fallen victim to a trap. In fact, Noone was convinced that Thompson had never entered the jungle.

Could Thompson have been kidnapped? It was reported that on the day he vanished a caravan of cars was observed going up the normally traffic-free road to the highlands and coming down three hours later —about the time of his disappearance. But according to local police, foreigners were rarely the targets of kidnappers, and no one ever received a ransom note. "If he had been kidnapped," his nephew pointed out, "the reward of \$10,000 [soon raised to \$25,000] would have undoubtedly elicited a response." The fact that the Lings heard no struggle, and that Mrs. Ling remembered specifically the footsteps of just one man walking down their driveway, tended to discredit the kidnapping theory.

Those who still subscribed to it, how-ever, said Thompson was taken not for money but for political ends. The Asian edition of Life magazine speculated that he might have been captured by commu-nists wanting to make him publicly de-nounce U.S. policy in Vietnam. Time mag-azine quoted OSS colleagues of Thompson arguing that he must have been abducted for "political purposes."

Two weeks after Thompson's disappearance, Peter Hurkos, a Dutch mystic who had gained worldwide fame for helping solve the "Boston Strangler" murders, was flown to Malaysia to help police. In his first trance, he announced that Thompson had been captured by bandits and was being held just north of the Thai-Malaysian border. After a few more well-publicized seances, Hurkos finally concluded that Thompson had been abducted by communist terrorists and was being imprisoned in Cambodia. When another psychic, Robert McGowan, declared that he had "located" Thompson in a small house in the village of Strung Tring, Cambodia, Thompson's friends went into action. They hatched a plan to fly a CIA Air America craft into Cambodia and feign engine trouble over Strung Tring. Upon landing, they would find the house that McGowan had described and rescue Thompson.

The CIA got wind of the venture and scotched the idea by forbidding the involvement of agency personnel and aircraft. Nevertheless, the Gurkha guide who had originally been recruited for the mission trekked into Cambodia and found his way to Strung Tring. After two weeks of tramping around the village, he gave up searching for the house, and by the time he left, he was convinced that Thompson had never been there.

The most intriguing theory was that Thompson had defected to the communists. It was known that he opposed U.S. involvement in Vietnam and sympathized with the Indochinese nationalists. In a letter to Elinor, he complained that the U.S. always seemed to back the wrong horse. It makes me sick to see those little countries get torn to pieces by the communist powers and us." During his trips to northern Thailand on business or in search of rare antiquities, he regularly met with Indochinese communists. and he would neither confirm or deny allegations that he knew Ho Chi Minh personally.

Other observers of the case noted Thompson's profound dissatisfaction with the Thai government, which had pressured him to surrender part of his art collection to the National Museum. They argued that he had gone into the jungle to join the communists and plot the overthrow of the Thai regime.

Still others were convinced that Thompson had rendezvoused with Red Chinese officials who spirited him away to manage their fledgling silk industry. It was true that after a public confrontation with the Thai government, he had considered offers in other Asian countries interested in establishing silk export industries.

Despite the multitude of theories offered to explain Thompson's disappearance, none have provided any clues as to what might have happened on that sunny Easter Sunday 20 years ago. Nor have there been any other positive developments. Dozens of people have come forward, but they have all turned out to be publicity hunters, mental cases, or profiteers angling for the 5,000 reward.

Maybe one day someone will stumble over Jim Thompson's bones in the jungles the Cameron Highlands. Maybe it will be revealed that he was involved in a plot to overthrow the Thai government. Or maybe one of his abductors will reveal the whereabouts of the shallow grave in which his body was buried after a botched attempt at kidnap.

Meanwhile, the Thompson house is being preserved by a Thai charitable and cultural foundation. Some 40,000 people visit it every year, and so the legend of the Thai Silk King lives on.

## Annex 4 Clippings from Delaware and Pennsylvania re the Katharine Thompson Wood Murder

This annex provides copies of articles clipped by O. Wells Foster and kindly supplied for use in this report; and also a summary of articles in the West Chester *Daily Local News* on the KTW case and the suicide of her son.



Delaware News Journal, Dec. 1967, O. Wells Foster clip file

## Slaying of socialite unsolved, clues few

HERE are some of the other 10 p.m. the following day.

a.m. the following day.

a.m. the following day.

The last person to see her bile suspects, both w

istate by firemen and other volinteers failed to turn it up. fid a hunt with a metal-detec-Police have found some possible weapons but able to tag any one definitely, Delduco said

The dogs—There were two, a lat the time of the crime. Afterlice set up a portable radio in
Wood home and for some
is used it as headquarters and the investigation. During
the investigation. During
the investigation. During
the period 12 men were aslaternately as vicious or friendned to the case, including two
the policemen from Delaware.

Deviin said the full-time force
a struck to four Pennsylvania protect their mistress?

The dogs—There were two, a lat the time of the crime. Afterward police said they didn't believe the couple was involved.

The theory that Mrs. Woodwas killed by some titierant apparently isn't given much credence by police. The bome is secluded, at the edd of a long,
winding road about three-quarters of a mile off Selborne
Drive.

shrunk to four Pennsylvania protect their mistress?

THE maid, Mrs. Harel Walters of a mile off Selborne Drive.

THE maid, Mrs. Harel Walters of Chadds Ford, told police of the arrived about 8 a.m. on the protect their mistress?

THE maid, Mrs. Harel Walters of Chadds Ford, told police of the arrived about 8 a.m. on the arrived about 8 a.m. on the protect of the sasuming Mrs. Wood was still be provided that all we haven't reached that all we have they are suspects, and the bedroom. Rumpus was though one had a slight wound in the bedroom. Rumpus was stranger'—a man who stopped at centerville store the morn ingle his mouth. Tests showed no evidence the dogs had been or vidence that will hold up in the transition of the mouth of the mouth. The stranger'—a man who stopped at Centerville store the morn ing before the body was found asked directions to Selborne Drive.

Those are just a few of the private of a mile off Selborne Drive.

"I just can't buy it was some-term of hough the police of houses before hitting this one. I think it would have to be someone familiar with the bedroom. Rumpus was "stranger"—a man who stopped at a Centerville store the morn ingular there is an important difference, he said, between "what the bedroom of the bedroom of the mouth of the bedroom of the bedroom of the mouth of the bedroom of the bedroom of the bedroom of the mouth of the bedroom of the mouth of the bedroom of the bedroom of the bedroom of the mouth of the bedroom of the bedro

The last person to see her ble suspects, both were dudy and the concerned.

The last person to see her ble suspects, both were dudy and the concerned was \$40 in was Econyr Church, \$2-year-old gardener who told police he last earl secklace in a vanity. The oroner said death was caused by a fractured skull and that firs. Wood was not sexually from buying a lawmower in the case is solved. As one of the neighbors said during those first days of shocks:

"We all felt in safe here be-

during those first days of shocks and been threats against the aground properties of the state o

is are reasonably sure of and indexec that will hold up in the sure. Those are just a few of the missing pieces which may one and teast four persons have day fall into place and form a picture of who killed Mrs. Wood some that were pretty far-fetch sumetime between the hours of ed. One tipsier, for example of extra sensory perception. She posses that are still miss-a m. the following day. both were dud



Delaware News Journal, Dec. 1967, O. Wells Foster clip file

## Wood Slaying Leads estigators say they are still broached early in the investigahow many pieces they have that Mrs. Wood was caused by a fracture that Mrs. Wood was by molested. Ask there had been the the victim, Deld there's "no eviden Investigators say they are still turning up fresh leads in their 11-week-old probe into the death Thompson, who was with the Office of Strategic Services in of Mrs. Katherine Thompson

"Little bits and pieces turn up," says Chester County District Attorney A. Alfred Delduco.
Police will "go until they really hit a blank wall. We haven't

reached that point yet."

Det. Sgt. William J. Devlin, ranking Pennsylvania state po-liceman on the case, says: "We haven't given up hope. We still have things to work on."

AS to what the new cives might be, both men maintained the close-mouthed policy they have followed ever since the brutal summer crime shattered the affluent calm of Selborne Drive, a plush residential area near Centerville.

Delduco says there are "a couple of suspects" and the killer 'probably knew her." But there is a big difference between "what you are reasonably sure of and evidence that will hold up in court." At least four persons have been given lie-detector tests, he added.

Motives? "Nothing definite," Delduco says. Weapon? "None has been found." Fingerprints? "Nothing significant."

MALAYSIAN police say they don't believe there is a link between Mrs. Wood's death and the mysterious disappearance of her brother, James H. W. Thompson, last March 26 in Malaysia.

"It is felt that the slaying . has no connection with his disappearance," T. B. M. Krishnan, inspector-general of the Royal Malaysia Police, wrote in response to a News-Journal query. The possibility that Mrs. Wood's death was part of a plot against her brother was

World War II, revived the silk-industry in Thailand and was called the "Silk King."

As for the status of the Thompson probe, Krishnan said that "since the investigations are incomplete it is felt that any disclosure . . . may be prejudicial."

MRS. Wood, 74, a society matron and member of a prominent Wilmington family, lived alone in a secluded 10-room house set in an island of tall oak trees on her 14-acre estate just over the state line in Pennsylva-

She was found dead in the bed of her blood-spattered bedroom about 9 a.m. Aug. 30 by a maid who went in a few days a week.

Police obviously aren't sayin how many pieces they hav found to the puzzle of her death. But they should have a few Police set up a portable radio is the Wood home and for som weeks used it as headquarter for the investigation. Durin that period 12 men were a signed to the case, including twenty policemen from Delaware to the policemen from Delaware. state policemen from Dela

Devlin said the full-time force has shrunk to four Pennsylv troopers, while Delaware p are used "intermittently" needed.

HERE are some of the other puzzle pieces that are still miss-ing, at least as far as the public is concerned:

 Motive—Apparently it was not robbery. Untouched was \$40 in a wallet in the bedroom and a pearl necklace in a vanity. The coroner said death was

• Weapon — It weapon, 'said polisive foot-by-foot as estate by firemen a unteers failed to tudid a hunt with a tor. Police have possible weapons able to tag any our possible weapons. Delduco sald.

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O. Foster Wells clip file, Dec. 1967, Wilmington DE paper

# Leads Still Turn Up

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pparently it was ntouched was \$40 the bedroom and ace in a vanity. said death was caused by a fractured skull and that Mrs. Wood was not sexually molested. Asked whether there had been threats against the victim, Delduco replied there's "no evidence of any."

- Weapon It was a "blunt weapon," 'said police. A massive foot-by-foot search of the estate by firemen and other volunteers failed to turn it up. So did a hunt with a metal-detector. Police have found some possible weapons but are unable to tag any one definitely, Delduco said.
- The Dogs There were two, a German shepherd called Mr. Magoo and a golden retriever named Rumpus. Both were found in the house with the body. The dogs are described alternately as vicious or friendly, depending on whom you ask. In any event, why didn't they protect their mistress?

THE maid, Mrs. Hazel Walters of Chadds Ford, told police she arrived about 8 a.m. on Aug. 30 and started ironing, assuming Mrs. Wood was still asleep. When Mr. Magoo attracted her attention, said Mrs. Walters, she followed him into the bedroom. Rumpus was there with the body.

The dogs were not injured, although one had a slight wound inside his mouth. Tests showed no evidence the dogs had been drugged, according to police.

Those are just a few of the missing pieces which may one day fall into place and form a picture of who killed Mrs. Wood sometime between the hours of 10 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 29, and 6 a.m. the following day.

INVESTIGATORS some weeks ago questioned a couple held in

a Philadelphia slaying after reports they had been in this area at the time of the crime. Afterward police said they didn't believe the couple was involved.

The theory that Mrs. Wood was killed by some itinerant apparently isn't given much credence by police. The home is secluded, at the end of a long, winding road about three-quarters of a mile off Selborne Drive.

"I just can't buy it was someone going through," Delduco said. "He had to pass an awful lot of houses before hitting this one. I think it would have to be someone familiar with the place who probably knew her."

The mystery also has a "stranger"—a man who stopped at a Centerville store the morning before the body was found and asked directions to Selborne Drive. Other residents said they couldn't recall having a visitor that day.

POLICE have checked that and many other leads, including some that were pretty far-fetched. One tipster, for example, was a woman claiming powers of extrasensory perception. She fingered two persons as possible suspects. Both were duds, Delduco said.

Calm has returned to Selborne Drive, although some of the residents undoubtedly will have nagging anxieties unless the case is solved.

As one of the neighbors said during those first days of shock:

"We all felt so safe here because Selborne is a dead end. We knew that if anybody tried anything he would be trapped."

O. Foster Wells clip file, Dec. 1967, Wilmington DE paper

### Hunt Ends for Silk King; Last Reward Withdrawn

American who made a fortune selling Thai silk, was a house guest of a Chinese merchant and his American-born wife at villa in the Cameroon Highlands, a resort area in Malaysia, on March 26, 1967.

Between lunch and dinner Thompson retired to his room. When a servant knocked to summon him to dinner, the guest had vanished.

Two and a balf years of in-vestigation by Malaysian police turned up no trace of Thompson beyond the room and no clue to his fate.

Last week the investigators marked as closed their efforts to find out what happened. The last reward, a \$10,000 police offer for information, was with-drawn. At one time during the Continued on Page 9, Col. 1



James H. W. Thompson

### Silk King Mystery

Continued from First Page

search, rewards totaled \$80,000. Thompson, whose American home was in Greenville, Del., was 61 when he disappeared During World War 11, he served as an agent of the U.S. Office Strategic Services (OSS), fore runner of the Central Intelli-

lored Thai silks made by cot-tage workers. The silks were little known outside Thailand and Thompson saw an instant market in the United States. After retiring from the OSS he founded the Thai Silk Co., an export business which flourished from the State. rished from the start.

The cottage signers develop new combina- taken from the house tions and patterns. Before long he had developed an interhe had developed an inter- as much a mystery as new national marketing organization brother's disappearance.

and the silks became Thailand's best known export to the Western World.

Thailand the other of those in Western World.

#### The Tiger Theory

His disappearance on a holi-day from his business baffled

First speculation was that Thompson had walked into the jungle and become lost. Against this was his jungle tracking ex-perience as a member of the OSS in that area of the world. Had he been killed by a tiger, perhaps eaten?

Kidnapper bands operate in the Cameroon Highlands. They prey on wealthy Chinese busiprey on wealthy Chinese businessmen, seizing them for ran-som, Had Thompson been taken captive by them? No ransom demand was received.

A year after the disapearance a brother, Henry B. Thompson, of Reisterstown, Md., said he thought Thompson had been kidnaped by Commu-nists because he had shown the people that capitalists could bring them prosperity. He said Thompson's company

did an annual export and retail business of \$1.2 million a year and that poor people who had begun weaving silk for it were now "wealthy people with houses, one or two automobiles, and are sending their children to Germany and France for their education."

The dispatch reporting last search said that rumors still

One is that he has gone to Pek-ing, the capital of Red China. Another is that he is at work in a southeast Asian country on a highly secret project.

#### Sister Murdered

One person who did not be-lieve Thompson dead was his sister, Mrs. Katherine Thomp-son Wood. It was his custom to gence Agency. His operations sister, Mrs. Katherine Thomps were against the Japanese in the China-Burma-India Theater He was ordered to Thailand at the war's conclusion and was at the war's conclusion and was at the war's conclusion and was the war wa her secluded Chester County

In the summer of 1967, as-

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Mrs. Wood's death remains as much a mystery as her

the United States.

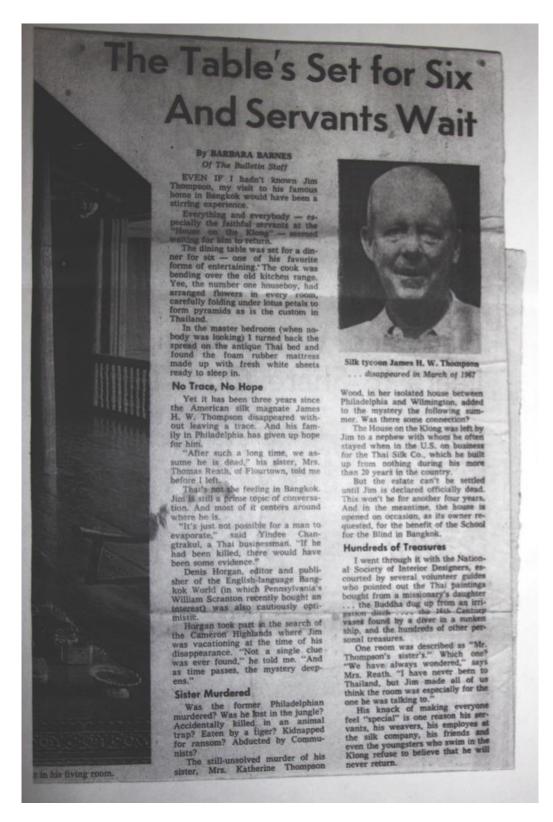
His Thailand property was left to a nephew, Henry B. Thompday from his business baffled investigators and the large police and Army units that were deployed to search the jungles for him.

First speculation was that main in Thailand.

An agreement between the nephew and the Siam Society, of Bangkok, has put this into effect. Thompson's Bangkok house has become a museum with the proceeds going to the Blind Society of Bangkok.

Thompson's eight nephew and nleces were made the residuary heirs of his American fortune, valued in excess of \$1.1 mil-Two trustees have been llion. appointed to conserve its assets intil a formal finding of death makes their distribution

Source: O. Wells Foster clip file; c. late 1969, paper not clear; note last para re \$1.1 million



Source: O. Wells Foster file, clip apparently from The Evening Bulletin (of PA), c. 1970



## Can murder turn a sweet home sour?

Some new owners tell tales of strange events

By MAUREEN MILFORD Staff reporter

Most families would be delighted to call the imposing two-story colonial house "home." The sprawling stucco dwelling, built in 1963, sits on 10 acres of wooded land near Centreville, just a few hundred, feet north of the Delaware state line.

But 16 years ago house hunters wouldn't

touch it with a barge pole.

In a first-floor bedroom, Katharine "Kaa" Thompson Wood, a Wilmington socialite, was beaten to death on a hot August night in 1967. The case got frontpage newspaper coverage.

"Nobody wanted to buy this house," said

O. Wells Foster, the current owner.

When a house becomes the scene of a crime it usually becomes a real-estate problem, particularly if the incident is highly publicized. The market for the house is suddenly limited to those people who aren't bothered by the tragedy — and that can be a small group, say real-estate agents. One appraiser said the market is limited to 5 percent of the interested homebuyers.

Appraisers often have trouble establishing value on such a house because, to some people, price is immaterial. "You couldn't give it to me" is the way one buyer

See MURDER - All

Source: O. Wells Foster clip file, c. 1983, newspaper not clear

### aurder doesn't always kill a house's chances for sale

house. Even Foster, who had known Katharine Wood since he was a youngster, did not move in without trepidation. "It bothered me to a certain

"It bothered me to a certain extent Apparently there was quite a lot of blood. The walls had been painted, but the stains were still on the window shades. And the blood had dripped down into the cellar and stained the floor joist. When I go down in the cellar and sook at the joist, it bothers me. It's one thing to a continuous that the continuous continuous that the continuous was the continuous that the continuous that the continuous c

Continued from A1 concribed her feelings after hearing that there had been a murder in a house. pretty grisly murder, but my thoughts are that everybody has to die somewhere'

The bothered me to a certain extent. Apparently there was quite a lot of blood. The walls had been painted, but the stains were still on the window shades. And the blood had dripped down into the cellar and stained the floor joint. When I go down in the cellar and look at the stain were and the standard stained the floor joint. When I go down in the cellar and look at the stain were still on the cellar and look at the stain were still on the stain when I just happened, well, it puts a cloud on it.

The 74-year-old Wood was apparently joing in bed listening to the radio when the killer walked to her bedside and began hitting berower the head with a blund object. The best of the bedside and began hitting berower the head with a blund object. I have been still been a mired in the basement. The were the head with a blund object. I have been still been a mired in the basement. The were the head with a blund object. I have been still been a mired in the basement. The waste of the brown the lateral walled to head the still been a mired in the basement. The waste been a mired in the basement. The waste been a mired in the basement. The waste been a mired in the basement in the still been a mired in the bases we were look, in the still been a mired in the bases we were look in the still been a still been a mired in the bouse we were look in the still been and the stil

of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CLA. Thompson brands a languishing Thailand silk industry into a multimultion-dollar bounds however the considerity of the part o

two men to kill her hwaband according to trial testimory. The men shot Kepley's husband her taken of the caused only a superficial women and that point she got scared and west to police, according to newspaper accounts, the was killed to keep are accounts, the was killed to keep are accounts the was killed to keep are always to be amed, said the feels "got" about her house in Newark, where in 1981 a chiropractor shot his side, who was terminally ill with leakeman The doctor then shot his side, who was terminally ill with leakeman the recovered after several months in the hospital. He was given a suspended jail sentence and the did laise that plays are "I feel there must have been a just of love in this house. They must have loved each other very much the woman said. "I can't away my kids were happy about it. They were a little disamayed."

William Southarn bought the woman who said the would show he were a little disamayed.

William Southarn bought the came who said the would show any found found in an upstairs bedroom He had been received of the current and the woman and the woman as and "I can said." "I can said "I can't said the would show any found found in an upstairs bedroom He had been received of the current and the woman and the woman was and "I can said." "I can said "I can said "I can said." "I can said "I can said "I can said." "I can said "I can said." "I can said "I can said "I can said." "I can said "I can said." "I can said "I can said "I can said." "I can said "I can said." "I can said "I can sai

lem. Goce someone has moved into a house, the edge is off, real-estate salesmen say. Nobody wasted the busis before we hought it, but after we move in the walls dreed out in the and lived in it everybody wanted.

Foster said he believed the blood in the walls had dried and was drifting into the room.

But the really strange things the best with the reality strange things the best with the results when the summer of the start when a man the strange when the young wooman was haby setting the Foster on the original ways to hard at the best with the start when the said was the saw a woman in an inglugowe sitting on a chair in the hall.

She described the might gown perfectly to Foster as having frilly cuffs and a frilly neckline. Foster which we would be the said.

cuffs and a frilly neckline. Foster said.

"But, Mr. Foster," she said, "the woman didn't have a head.

After that the Fosters had to get a buby auter for the maid as well as the children when the coupler in the daylight, but after dark be in the daylight, but after dark be in the daylight, but after dark be in the foster. Foster said be thought his maid was morely superstitious, until they was their imagination.

#### GETTING MARRIED

#### Join us for a Fashion Show Breakfast and Makeup Tips for that special day Saturday, May 21, 9 a.m. at Bamberger's Christiana

See a parade of the loveliest bridal gowns and trousseau (avorites from Rienzis, Willmington. And watch Lancome experts show you how to look your best, And to feel your best, stay fit and trim with an expert from Body Works. Are you registered with the Bridal Registry? Come in and register now and you'll be eligible for fabulous prizes from

your favorite china, silver, and crystal

Enjoy the morning - fresh fruit, banana bread and coffee, Call 366-5800 ext. 202 to



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A Uniperm gives your har style-sus bounce, so it tooks just as terrific at 5 Your Helene Curris Uniperm includes and styling. Regularly \$505ale 28.95 Our Directives has extenders, du looking, are sale-priced, too. Regularly

Chantrey Beauty Salons

Source: O. Wells Foster clip file, c. 1983, newspaper not clear

This annex section provides summaries of news stories about the KTW murder and the suicide of her son, in the admirably titled *Daily Local News* (DLN) of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Summaries are provided, rather than the original images, because the stories were often repetitive and discussed the fact that there was little evidence. Hence just new information is provided in each summary below; these are in chronological order. Original images can be obtained at the Chester County Central Library on microfilm.

#### DLN, Friday, 1 Sept. 1967, p. 2, "Lack Clues in Brutal Murder"

Part time maid Hazel Walters, 38, of Chadds Ford, reported to police that she found Mrs. Woods' bludgeoned body in bed at about 9 am on Wednesday. Coatesville pathologist said the victim died of a fractured skull and brain injuries, in what the Chief Count Detective called, "one of the most brutal murder cases I've seen." Police combed the 14 acre estate but could not find the murder weapon or other clue.

The District Attorney theorized that Mrs. Wood knew the person who killed her. She owned two large dogs, a German Shepherd and a Golden Retriever, who slept in her bedroom, according to relatives and employees. The DA said the killer knew the victim or her estate well enough to avoid "an extremely vicious German Shepherd."

Mrs. Wood's closest neighbor, William E. Butler, Jr., a vet, said her dogs "even killed one of my dogs, a puppy." He said his own three dogs gave him a restless sleep the night of the slaying, and barked exceptionally, but couldn't say for sure if they had been riled by Wood's dogs.

The maid Hazel Walters stated that, "Mrs. Wood believed her brother (Jim Thompson) was still alive and would show up for dinner this Monday." The maid explained that the brother and sister traditionally dined together on Labor Day. However, the victim's sister, Mrs. James H. Douglas, Jr. of Lake Forest, IL, said that theory was "ridiculous."

The victim was to be buried after services at Christ Church, Christiana Hundred, DE.

#### DLN, Saturday, 2 Sept. 1967, p. 1, "Will Search Estate of Murder Victim"

Robbery as a motive was discounted when her \$2000 pearl necklace, thought to be missing, was located in a dresser drawer in the bedroom. At least 75 searchers combed the 14 acre estate.

Agencies involved include the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP), Chester County police, and Delaware State Police.

#### DLN, Tuesday, 5 Sept. 1967, p. 1, "Investigators Meet to Review Probe of Murder"

A brainstorming session was held by investigators, due to lack of clues. The murder "blunt instrument" had not been found. A crowbar and a hatchet found in a closet in the victim's bedroom were sent to Harrisburg for routine testing, but these were not believed to be involved in the murder. Interviews

were conducted with Mrs. Wood's hairdresser in Wilmington, and migrant workers in Delaware and southeaster Chester County area.

Mrs. Wood's "vicious" dogs were believed to be in the room when she was killed, but apparently failed to come to her aid. No items of value were found to be missing, and the victim was not molested.

#### DLN, Wednesday, 6 Sept. 1967, p. 1, "Murder Case Probers Turn to Questioning"

The Chief County detective leading the investigation, Thomas G. Frame, said that investigators "haven't even scratched the surface" in delving into the murder. He ordered lab tests on the two dogs to see if they had been drugged. Interviews and re-interviews were ordered.

#### DLN, Thursday, 7 Sept. 1967, p. 1, "Reports of New Leads in Wood Slaying Denied"

Police appeared to be without a single clue in the murder, even a motive. Tests on the dogs were pending. Officials in Kuala Lumpur have asked the FBI for full information on the case, in their attempts to find a link between the JT disappearance and the KTW murder.

#### DLN, Friday, 8 Sept. 1967, p. 1, "Wood Slaying Probers Will Quiz Couple"

Chester Co. detectives questioned unemployed printer Frank Jackmowicz (or Jackomowicz) [FJ], 33, and his common law wife Mary, 35, who were arrested Wednesday in the fatal beating of Mrs. Mary Corde, 73, of 1729 Arch St., Philadelphia. It was reported that FJ and common law wife Mary were in the Wilmington area when Wood was murdered; they are described as "drifters." Both had come down from Boston and were staying with Mary's mother for a while, and FJ had been arrested in the area about 18 months ago by a Wilmington police officer [charge and name of officer unstated]. In Philadelphia, FJ allegedly beat Mrs. Corde on Tuesday evening after he tried to borrow money from her and she demanded that the couple move out.

[N.B.: an Internet search revealed that FJ may still be alive and living in the Chester County area; this possibility was not pursued.]

The lab report on the dogs is expected today.

## DLN, Thursday, 14 Sept. 1967, p. 1, "Wood Murder Investigations: Discount Suspicions Dogs Were Drugged"

Tests on urine samples taken from KTW's two dogs revealed no evidence of drugs. The German Shepherd, named "Mr. Magoo," and the Golden Retriever, named "Rumpus," apparently failed to protect Mrs. Wood. The maid [Hazel Walters] says the dogs were not vicious, others say they were.

A DuPont Co. pathologist has said that two tests, urine and blood, are needed, because some drugs are oxidized – changed to other substances – in the dogs' systems, and other residues are passed off in urine. The District Attorney A. Alfred Delduco said that he did not know if blood samples were taken. No word has come back from detectives dispatched to New England to interview persons connected with Mrs. Wood. The investigation has been "deadened" by a lack of clues, suspects and motives.

#### DLN, Monday, 27 Dec. 1971, p. 2, Obituaries, "Harrison Wood, 47, is found dead on Christmas Day"

Harrison W. Wood, 47, of Rt. 202 and Sugartown Road, Willistown Township, was found by his swimming pool at 12:30 pm Christmas Day, after he apparently shot himself with a small caliber handgun. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Paoli Memorial Hospital. He was the son of KTW, bludgeoned to death in Pennsbury Township on August 30, 1967, in an unsolved murder. And no trace has been found of JT, who disappeared in the Malaysian jungle in March 1967.

Willistown Police Chief, Capt. William L. Tarr, said Harrison Wood's death has been ruled a suicide and there is no indication of foul play. Tarr said the victim left a note for his family and the contents will not be revealed. Wood is survived by two sons, was an active member of Francis in the Fields Episcopal Church on Sugartown Road, not far from his home, and was a rector's warden and member of the vestry. Funeral services and internment will be private.

## Annex 5 Interviews re the Jim Thompson and Katharine Thompson Wood cases

Interviews are included in this order (not in chronological order):

- 1. An Army Lt. who was a leader in the 1967 search Captain Mokh Ta Mohammad
- 2. A Boy Scout who participated in the 1967 search Aleyak Peran
- 3. Searcher in 1967 Alias bin Abdul Rahsid, "Cikgo" or "The Teacher"
- 4. Searcher in 1967 Denis Horgan, Lt., US Army, friend of JT, served under Brig. Gen. Edwin Black
- 5. Current Jim Thompson researcher Captain Phillip Rivers; this interview includes his 10 page paper on the "bones of Jim Thompson"
- 6. Current Police senior commander in CH Assistant Superintendent of Police Hashadid Hamid
- 7. Current Police officer in the CH P.O. Khalid
- 8. Current Nurse in the area Sister Khuchariv
- 9. Current District Medical Officer Dr. Mohammad Rafiq
- 10. Former wife of the former District Medical Officer Dr. Cheam May Choo
- 11. Former District Medical Officer Dr. Chong Chee Khong
- 12. Former Police Officer, nature guides in CH area, JT enthusiasts Jay and Gerard Richard
- 13. Current nature guide and JT expert in the area, who was 13 in 1967 and his house was searched for JT -- Madi
- 14. Current librarian in the Tanah Rata area
- 15. Proprietor of the Time Tunnel regional museum See Kok Shan
- 16. Recent US hikers in the area Jim and Sandy McCarthy (Jim was a PCV in the CH in 1968)
- 17. Proprietor of the OMF Bungalow Mrs. Chey
- 18. Unsuccessful interview attempts with "Jim Thompson" Chinese taxi driver
- 19. Terry A. Strine, current owner of the house where Ka Thompson Wood was murdered in PA
- 20. O. Wells Foster, former owner of the house where Ka Thompson Wood was murdered, knew her and her son
- 21. Linda Murphy, cadaver dog specialist

Relevant photos are included at the end of each interview.



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview Notes

Focus topic of interview: Search techniques and findings in 1967 Name of interviewee: Captain Mokh Ta Mohammad, from Penang, Malaysia Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none Date interviewed: 24 Nov 2013 Approximate duration of interview: 90 minutes Location of interview: Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; at the Cameron Highlands Resort, and at the Moonlight Bungalow Interviewed by phone \_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_ Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ x\_\_\_\_ Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu) Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_x\_ Excellent\_\_\_\_ Contact info for this interviewee: Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_\_x\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_ Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Lt. in Malaysian Army in 1967; participated in official JT search, was privy to official search tactics and findings

Abbreviations: Mokh Ta Mohammad: MTM: don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB

Year of birth of interviewee: 1944; hence about 23 in 1967, and 69 in 2013

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

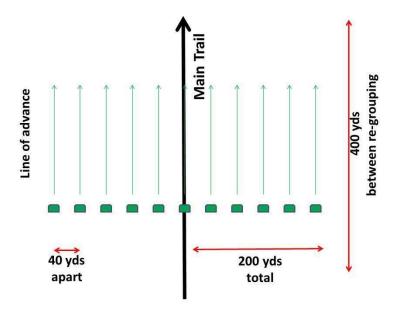
#### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. MTM was in the Malaysian Field Force (army) as a Second Lieutenant in 1967. At the time of the JT disappearance and search, he had just returned one month before from the UK, where he attended Sandhurst Military Academy for one year of military training. He was later promoted from lieutenant to captain, and served many years in the Army. Now he works in Penang at a hotel. He comes to the Cameron Highlands sometimes and takes people on jungle walks, or gives talks on the JT case.
- 2. MTM was not involved in the SAR effort for JT during the first day of the search (i.e. Monday, the day after the disappearance). Locals searched around the bungalows on that day.
- 3. Officials in Kuala Lumpur brought up a special group of searchers on the second day. A large search was undertaken. A comprehensive effort was wanted. JT had a CIA background and was well known. Helicopters were used. The Malay military was brought in. Gurkhas were brought in. [Very tough, legendary soldiers from Nepal serving in Malaya.] Tracker dogs were used. MTM was closely involved in the search, participated and helped lead it, and knows the findings of the official search.
- 4. Three dogs were used. MTM saw these dogs. They were all of the bloodhound type of search dogs, that is they searched a trail using scent gotten from the victim's clothes or possessions. [These were not air-scenting dogs searching for any victim or body in an area.]
- 5. It appeared to the searchers that JT was waiting for someone, while having tea at the Moonlight Cottage. He smoked a cigar, and left the cigar on the table on the verandah of the cottage. He left his jacket hanging on the chair beside the table on the verandah.
- 6. The last indication was that he (JT) was at the Moonlight Cottage at 4:00 pm. This was because at about that time JT walked to the edge of the steep slope surrounding the cottage. He was visible from the Lutheran Mission, about 300 meters away. A gardener at the Lutheran Mission looked up at the Moonlight Bungalow, saw a "masala" (a European foreigner), who then waved. This occurred at about 4 p.m. The gardener later stated that the foreigner looked like Thompson, and it was rare to see foreigners in Tanah Rata at that time. (See photo at the end of this interview.)

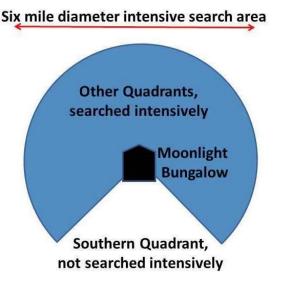
- 7. The three bloodhound-type dogs were brought to the verandah of the Moonlight Cottage, during the search. One sniffed the cup of tea. One sniffed the cigar end. One sniffed the jacket. One dog went to the edge of the garden, then back to the chair. Then to the path that led to the entrance to the Moonlight Bungalow. Then the dog returned to the verandah. The dog then cast about in a circle around the Bungalow, but found no other scent to follow up. The other two dogs also followed a similar path, and seemed to find no scent trail other than one leading to the entrance to the Bungalow, where a car would have arrived.
- 8. MTM was on the army investigation leadership team. He did not think at the time, nor does he think now, that JT went into the jungle. This conclusion is based on the dog scent findings. There was no fence around the compound. MTM thinks that JT did not leave the compound except by getting into a car. Otherwise the dogs would have found a scent trail. But the lack of scent trail would be explained by JT getting into a car near the entrance to the Bungalow, and departing that way.
- 9. The investigative team brought in orang asli (local aborigine trackers experienced in jungle ways) to look through the jungle. The investigative team also took the bloodhound style dogs into the jungle. Neither the trackers nor the dogs found any trace of JT in the jungle.
- 10. MTM feels that JT was taken by car from the Moonlight Bungalow and out of the area, and his body is not in the nearby jungle.
- 11. MTM states that JT was supposed to go to Penang the next day (just after the disappearance) and had made a taxi booking to take that journey. This taxi booking was with the taxi driver now known as "Jim Thompson" [the Chinese driver with this nickname who still drives in the area].
- 12. Just 1-3 days after the disappearance, two monks from Tibet came up to Tanah Rata and looked for JT. These monks said they wanted antiques back, that had been taken from Tibet, and that were in JT's possession. These monks did not go in to the jungle or participate in the search.
- 13. JT was ex-CIA, and was an antiques collector. His operational area was the Golden Triangle drug area [in the north of Thailand near the border with Laos and Burma]. His CIA background, or his involvement in antiques or in the Golden Triangle, was the likely reason for his disappearance, in MTM's opinion. Or he disappeared on purpose.
- 14. JT had a sister who was murdered in the USA soon after the JT disappearance. The two events are likely connected.
- 15. There was a Chinese man who sat in front of his shop each day, facing the main road in Tanah Rata. The day of the disappearance he saw a "masala" go by, in the back of a passenger car. The car had four people in it, but only one masala.
- 16. During the search in the jungle, the searchers followed the many aboriginal trails that exist in the area. The procedure would be to go 400 yards [not meters, since this measure came into force later] along the main trail, then to send five men out to the right and five

or six to the left. These 10-11 men would stand about 40 yards apart. [Thus two "wings" of about 200 yards on either side of the main trail would be formed.] The two wings would advance parallel to the main trail, keeping a distance of 40 yards apart, and looking into the jungle between them. The two wings would advance 400 yards, then regroup on the main trail. Then the entire search process would be repeated. This procedure was used in an area for four to five kilometers [about three miles] around the Moonlight Bungalow. (Trails for several k out beyond three miles were walked also.)

17. The procedure above can be shown graphically as follows:



- 18. After going 400 yards, the searchers would re-align if necessary, so that the next 400 yard search leg would be in parallel with the main jungle trail.
- 19. This in-depth search procedure was not used much in the southern quadrant, south of the Moonlight Bungalow, since that area is more populated and hence it was unlikely that a live man or a body would go unseen by residents. By southern quadrant, the following is meant:



- 20. [Note that Captain Mohammad saw and approved of hand-drawn versions of the two graphics above; the hand drawn versions were created by Lew Toulmin.]
- 21. The jungle in the search area was thick, but with a tall tree canopy which reduced undergrown and bushes to a minimum. Therefore it was feasible for men positioned 40 yards apart to see each other and to see any body or evidence between them, as they advanced in line ahead.
- 22. If the search line encountered an open area with a clump of bushes, the men would go around both sides of the clump, and look for signs that the clump had been entered, such as broken branches or twigs or a push of a person forcing himself through.
- 23. In the jungle, the searchers would look at marks on plants, look for broken twigs, shoe marks, or other evidence.
- 24. In the jungle, animals lift their feet during each step and do not create a "heavy trail" like humans do. Humans often drag their feet and this can be seen by marks on the ground or by overturned leaves, especially by trained trackers like the orang asli.
- 25. JT was wearing shorts, according to Dr. Ling.
- 26. JT was wearing leather shoes, like dress shoes.
- 27. Captain Mohammad is not sure what kind of belt JT was wearing, this question was not asked of the people at the disappearance scene. [A belt description would help with body identification.]
- 28. Dr. Ling and his wife were in the Moonlight Bungalow and heard footsteps walking toward the gate. Capt. Mohammad is not sure what time this was, but this was likely JT leaving the Bungalow.
- 29. Earlier in the day JT and the Lings had gone for a picnic elsewhere, away from the Bungalow.
- 30. The orang asli [aboriginal natives in the area] do not use deep pit traps to catch game. Instead they use light snares made of wire or vine to catch rabbits, birds or other small game. There are no pits involved in these snares. During the entire search, the searchers found no pit traps, or similar traps with punji stakes.
- 31. During the search in the jungle, the bloodhound style dogs should have detected any blood, clothes or other items. None was found.
- 32. The Moonlight Bungalow has a steep cliff surrounding it, and the bottom and sides of the cliff were searched very carefully for a body or other sign. None was found.
- 33. The Bungalow has an access road that comes up from the NNW; this is the only road. However, there is a trail, called the "kitchen trail," which leads from the kitchen on the back of the Bungalow northwest down a steep hill, to a rubbish tip and stream at the bottom of a narrow valley. [This kitchen trail intersects the current "Jim Thompson Mystery Trail" at the bottom of the valley.]
- 34. JT left behind his pills and cigarettes in his room. His friends stated that he was a chain smoker, and had burn or tobacco stains on his right hand fingertips. He was right handed.

- 35. Captain Mohammad interviewed the Chinese driver now nicknamed "Jim Thompson." The Captain also interviewed the orang asli in the area to determine if they had spotted anything in the jungle or were involved in the disappearance. Neither saw anything.
- 36. Long after the disappearance, in around 2005 or 2006, a story came out about a Chinese driver who hit a foreigner, a European, with his vehicle, and accidentally killed the foreigner. The Chinese driver then took the foreigner's body away and buried him, far from the Moonlight Bungalow area. [This foreigner was supposedly JT in 1967.] The driver, who died much later, reportedly told his son on his deathbed, that he (the driver) had killed a foreigner long ago, and buried the foreigner's body.
- 37. To learn more about this story, I should go north to the see Capt. Phillip Rivers near the Boh Tea Plantation. This plantation was visited by JT.
- 38. Capt. Mohammad erected and built the JT Mystery Trail; although it is not a real trail. [I.e., it does not have markers or monuments and is not easy to walk. This Trail runs through the narrow valley at right angles to the "kitchen trail" mentioned above, and intersects the kitchen trail. Thus it is a long narrow loop, NW of the MB.]
- 39. During the search, the Moonlight Bungalow was used as the Search Operations Center. The police had control of most of the search, and the police records for the search would have ended up in the Police Museum in Kuala Lumpur [the capital]. [In fact, a visit to the Museum by Lew Toulmin proved fruitless in 2013.]
- 40. Although the dogs used in the search were bloodhound style dogs, they were not bloodhounds. They looked like the dogs now resident at the Moonlight Bungalow. [Capt. Mohammed then pointed out one of the MB dogs and stated that that is exactly what they looked like. A picture of the dog is presented below. This dog looked more like a mix of golden retriever and Labrador.]
- 41. Mr. Subramanian was the gardener at the Lutheran Bungalow Mission, who saw JT waving to him across the valley separating the two buildings. The distance is about 300 meters. Mr. Subramanian is now [2013] dead.
- 42. Mr. Madi is a naturalist, and was here in 1967 as a 10-year old. He knows all the locals who were involved in the search for JT. He works for the Cameron Highlands Resort. He might be a useful person to interview.



Capt. Mohammad at the Lutheran Mission Bungalow, pointing up at the Moonlight Bungalow. It was across this distance that a witness reportedly saw JT just before the disappearance.



[See caption below]



Dog at the Moonlight Bungalow, identified by Capt. Mohammad as the type of "bloodhound" or "trailing" dog used by police in the JT search ("air scenting" dogs were not used)



Captain Mohammad at rear of Moonlight Bungalow, showing where the kitchen was (now bedrooms). It was from the kitchen that the "kitchen trail" led steeply downhill to the left, down into a ravine with a stream, the site of an old trail alongside the stream in 1967, and now the site of the "JT Mystery Trail."

#end#



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview Notes

Focus topic of interview: Search activities in 1967

Name of interviewee: Perak Aleyak, Shopkeeper Commission Agent, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Main Road, Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: None; searched for JT in 1967

Date interviewed: 27 Nov 2013

Approximate duration of interview: 40 minutes

Interviewed by phone \_\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_

Location of interview: Mr. Aleyak's office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, in downtown, on west side of main road,

Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Interview done by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007

(Vanuatu)

Interview conducted in: English x\_\_\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_x\_\_ Excellent\_\_\_\_

Contact info for this interviewee: Aleyak & Co., Secretarial Services and Commission Agent, No. 7 Tkt. Atas, Jalan Besar, 39000 Tanah Rata; or home: No. 47-B, Flat PKNP, Jalan Besar, 39000 Tanah Rata. handphone: 013-524-2764

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_x\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_

Describe bias if other than "No"

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Boy Scout searcher for JT in 1967

Abbreviations: This respondent: PA; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est. age of interviewee: 17 in 1967, about 63 in 2013

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

#### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. [I described the JT case and my interest in it, stating that I was a journalist and investigator.]
- 2. PA stated that he was 17 in 1967 at the time of the JT disappearance. The case was "hot news." PA was a deputy Patrol Leader in a local Boy Scout Troop.
- 3. JT had gone missing from the MB. The next day we [the Boy Scouts] joined the orang asli, the Police, and the Army in the search. The area around the MB was divided up and searched by the different organizations.
- 4. The Boy Scouts went in uniform, grouped together.
- 5. His group was sent to Gunung Irau Mountain, a few kilometers from the MB. [This mountain is one of the tallest in Malaysia, at 6858 feet. It is NW of the MB, and is shown on the tourist map in the McCarthy interview. It is viewable from the area around the MB, but is more than a "few kilometers" away and would be a very substantial hike directly from the MB.] [Wikipedia states that "Mount Irau in the Titwangsa Mountains is on the Pahang-Perak border and is 2110 meters or 6923 feet high. Wikipedia also states that it takes about three hours to reach the top of the mountain from its base, on foot. This mountain is 2.71 miles or 4.36 km in a direct line NNW of the Moonlight Bungalow. The lat/long is 04.530178, 101.364824.]
- 6. PA stated that, "Our search of this Mountain took place on either Monday or Tuesday, just after the Sunday disappearance. The search effort needed men [and boys] fast."
- 7. PA said that one story that circulated was that JT might have been kidnapped.
- 8. PA stated: We left from a local school that was used as the staging area. We searched only one afternoon, after school ended. We gathered at the school playground in Scout uniform. We walked to the jungle trail leading to the Mountain. We were looking for some evidence of JT. We looked for footprints, clothing, or other items. We thought JT might have been lost in the jungle. One possibility was that tigers killed JT. That would have left a mess of clothing and blood.

- 9. We searched on that day until nightfall, so perhaps about 4 hours of searching in total from our Scout group. We did not search on other days, since major exams were coming up.
- 10. Our search technique was to walk on the main trail, which was generally man-made. About 5 orang asli [local aborigine natives] led the group. If we found a side trail, including a game trail, we would go down that side trail. There are lots of wild dogs and wild deer in the jungle, and they all make animal trails.
- 11. We would go up the side trail(s) for a few minutes, and look around for evidence.
- 12. We had whistles, and if we found anything we would whistle.
- 13. We continually called out, "Mr. Jim, Mr. Jim!"
- 14. I [PA] did not see any search groups using the technique of stationing searchers in the jungle some distance apart, then walking in a line advance through the jungle, in parallel to the main trail or any side trails. The only technique used by his group, including the orang asli, was to walk the main trail and the side trails, looking for sign. No-one entered the virgin jungle to search. The orang asli especially looked for signs and tracks.
- 15. However, the searching in the jungle in "line advance" could have taken place in other areas or by other groups. He has not heard of this.
- 16. All other searchers that I am aware of called out the name of JT and walked the trails, like we did.
- 17. Neither my group, nor any group that I saw, had any search dogs.
- 18. The number of Scouts in our group was about 15, plus the 5 orang asli.
- 19. We were the only Scout group searching. There was no other Scout group in the entire area. We were based at the Teng Ku Ahmad Secondary School. There was a local Girl Guides group [the British equivalent of the US Girl Scouts], but they were not asked to search.
- 20. Our Scout group found nothing. We searched only the main and side trails in the Gunung Irau Mountain area.
- 21. No other student groups were asked to search. There were about 200 students total in the Teng Ku secondary school.
- 22. The government Army arrived the next day and took over the search.
- 23. I did no informal searching on my own. None of my schoolmates searched either, on their own. It was known that you could easily get lost in the jungle.
- 24. Many people, both local and foreign, get lost in the CH jungles.
- 25. I can't recall if we needed to obtain a permit to go into the jungle at the time, due to the recent Emergency [the Communist Terrorist (CT) Emergency]. I know that we children used to go into the jungle, on the trail near our house, at this period, without any permit.
- 26. It is uncommon to see tigers in the CH. I have seen one two times in the CH, one dead that had been shot, and one alive that crossed the road in front of me near Ringlet.
- 27. There have been no tiger attacks on humans in the CH.
- 28. There are no leopards here at all in the CH.

- 29. There are lots of deer in the CH. The local dogs chase the deer, and the deer can burst their hearts and die in the chase.
- 30. There are wild elephants in the jungle about two hours travel time from here.
- 31. There are snakes in the CH but they don't bite if they are left undisturbed. There have been a couple of snake bites in the tea plantations, of workers.
- 32. There are no wild bears in the CH.
- 33. The orang asli never dig pit traps in the CH.
- 34. There are wild boar in the deep, remote jungle, but not near the MB.
- 35. There are no caves as far as I know in the CH.
- 36. [PA had a map on the wall in the hall outside his office, which was the only good topo map of the area I was able to find. It was dated 1995. I took several photos of this map. There are presented in the main analytical section.]



Perak Aleyak points to the mountains north of Tanah Rata that he searched for JT, as a Boy Scout in 1967.

#end#



## Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview Notes

**Focus topic of interview**: Search techniques and findings in 1967

Name of interviewee: Alias bin Abdul Rahsid, "Cikgo" [The Teacher]

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none

Date interviewed: 24 Nov 2013

Approximate duration of interview: 60 minutes

Location of interview: Rahsid's home, Taha Ratah, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Interviewed by phone \_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_

Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_

Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007

(Vanuatu)

Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_x\_Excellent\_\_\_\_

Contact info for this interviewee: c/o Gerard Richard, Cameron Secrets Tours

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_\_x\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_

Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Was in CH in 1967, did some searching for JT, visited the MB many times before the disappearance.

Abbreviations: This respondent: Cikgo; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Age of interviewee: born October 1942, hence 71 in 2013 and 25 in 1967

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

## **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. Cikgo was a bachelor in 1967 and it was late in the evening on the date of the disappearance (Sunday). He saw a big group of Thai people at the Shell station, a big crowd. It was the Easter Holiday and the CH was a big attraction to locals and tourists. Some of the Thais were in Army uniform. He saw a crowd of Thais at the Shell station in mid-morning on Sunday, also.
- 2. Later that Sunday the respondent went to see Lucy Goo, who was working at the petrol kiosk. He asked about the people and she said there were Siamese soldiers here. Later that evening, still on Sunday [the day of the disappearance], he heard that JT was missing.
- 3. This disappearance date was three weeks before the King of Malaya and the King of Thailand arrived in the CH.
- 4. Local orang asli were sent to search for JT as early as Sunday evening.
- 5. Monday morning the police began to search; Monday was the first day of a large scale search.
- 6. Dr. Ling [owner of the MB and friend of JT] gave his report to police on Monday morning.
- 7. The police used dogs in the search. There were 4-5 large Alsatian type dogs. The dog squad was based at a RASC [Royal Army Service Corps] base camp in the area. They used the Nissan huts there as their HQ.
- 8. During this general period Cikgo visited the MB almost every week. They made very good apple pie at the MB at the time, and that was the big attraction. So he was very familiar with the MB and the area around it.
- 9. Cikgo did some searching for JT on the jungle trails in the area, but did not go into the actual virgin jungle. After searching, he was mainly an on-looker.
- 10. The jungle in 1967 was fairly open on the ground level, and not bushy.
- 11. Fatima, the maid at the Lutheran Mission Bungalow, looked up and saw JT about 200 meters away, on the edge of the grounds of the MB. The jungle obscures this view now, but there was a visible line of sight then.
- 12. The weather [WX] on the day of the disappearance (Sunday) was clear. Cikgo does not recall the weather on previous days.
- 13. Col. Clifford of the CH Army garrison OIC [officer in charge] of the search. Clifford Jones, a different person, was the District Officer.

- 14. The bungalow just down the road about 20 meters from the MB is now called the Sunlight Bungalow. But in 1967 this bungalow was called the Shell bungalow.
- 15. In 1967 the Sunlight Bungalow was the bungalow about 200 yards west of the intersection at the bottom of hill, below the MB. This bungalow is sometimes called "Mook Lim's Bungalow." [There is now a marker on the utility pole right outside the bungalow that is marked "SP 11 13, Tel 15454." See the picture below.]
- 16. There was a "shortcut" trail from the MB downhill to the [then] Sunlight bungalow. This was a steep but short five minute climb up to the MB at the time.
- 17. It is near the [then] Sunlight bungalow that a taxi was reportedly seen picking up JT. This report was from an employee of the [then] Sunlight bungalow.
- 18. Cikgo is not aware of any new trails in the region of the MB that had recently been cut, that might have attracted JT to hike them.
- 19. Cikgo discussed various threats in the CH. These include the following:
  - a. Tigers: Cikgo arrived in the CH area in 1953. From that time until 1967, and on until the present, there were no confirmed tiger attacks on humans in the area. There have been tiger sightings. There are leopards in the area. Tiger or leopard attack in the JT case is very unlikely, since this would be the only such case. Such an attack would have left blood, scattered clothes, bones, and other very visible traces.
  - b. Falls: there are many ravines and cliffs in the area. Hikers and tourists do fall into these. Morris Minor [sic?] and a British sergeant fell into a ravine while hiking and it took two days to find them. Orang asli helped in the search. The orang are very good at tracking.
  - c. Pit traps: the orang asli and other locals did not and do not dig pits to catch game. The orang asli used blow guns and sling shots to catch squirrels. They also ate (and eat) lots of wild plants.
  - d. Truck or car accident: there was never any story at the time of the disappearance of a truck or car accident killing JT. This story came out much later. The roads to the CH British bungalows were all paved but narrow roads in 1967. The bungalows were generally occupied by British military personnel on holiday. There were not many vehicles at all in the CH at that time. It was rare that vehicles would go up to the bungalows. Taxis were generally used to re-supply the bungalows. There were so few vehicles and the area was quiet enough then that you could hear vehicles coming from a long way away. Drivers tended to drive slowly then. You needed permission to visit the bungalows and drive up to them.
  - e. Getting lost and hiking accident: Cikgo understands from his reading of the case that JT "disappeared" twice before, mainly by going for a long hike, getting lost, then re-appearing when people thought he was dead or injured in the forest.

- f. Self-disappearance: Cikgo recalls that he read in *Life* magazine that JT was found or spotted in Hong Kong two years after the disappearance.
- g. Gangs: There were no violent or kidnapping gangs in the CH area in 1967. There were CTs (Communist Terrorists) in gangs some years before 1967 in the Malay Emergency, and then there were troubles again some years after 1967. But not during or around that year.
- h. Holes, wells or similar: There were no holes, large wells, agricultural wells, boreholes, or similar in the CH in 1967.
- i. Caves: there are no caves in the CH area.
- j. Snakes: there are poisonous snakes in the area, but these are very shy and are not a real threat to humans.
- k. Other wild animals: there are no other dangerous animals.
- 1. Leeches: there are few leeches in the area and of course these are not fatal.
- m. Quicksand: there is no quicksand in the CH.
- 20. The OCPD [Officer Commanding the Police District] or his Deputy in Brinchang, which is the office in charge of this area, should be interviewed.
- 21. The taxi driver now known as "Jim Thompson" [because he went searching for JT shortly after the disappearance, and got lost himself] should be interviewed. He drives a white Nissan Bluebird and stations his car in the Tana Ratah main parking lot at the north entrance next to the main road. He does not like to be interviewed.
- 22. Captain Philip Rivers should be interviewed.
- 23. The files, photos etc. of the search should be in the Police Museum in Kuala Lumpur.
  - On 25 Nov 2013, I re-interviewed Cikgo for about 60 minutes at his home. He made the following points:
- 24. The Officer Commanding in the British Army in the area in 1967 was Major Scott. He was later promoted to Lt. Col.
- 25. [Cikgo provided a copy of an old map of the bungalows, which pre-dated 1967, and showed the roads. Key points: The old Sunlight Bungalow was also called "Mr. McMillan's Bungalow" and is number 4 on the map. The later Lutheran Mission Bungalow was previously called the "Jee Lim Villa" and is number 3 on the map. The Moonlight Bungalow was previously called the "French Tekkah Bungalow" and is number 2 on the map. The map does not show the new Sunlight Bungalow, which is just east of the Moonlight Bungalow/French Tekkah Bungalow.]
- 26. [Cikgo also provided some old articles on JT; I photographed these.]
- 27. The current acting District Medical Officer is Dr. Sebastian; he should be interviewed.
- 28. Dr. Chong Chee Keong (or Khong) was the District Medical Officer here in 1980. He should know about the "bones of JT" story and reality. To locate him, I should go Dr. Chiam's (and Dr. Liu's) clinic in Brinchang. Chiam is the former wife of Dr. Chong

- Chee Keong, and should be able to put me in touch. The clinic is near the Hotel Rosa Pasadena. Dr. Keong is one of the top doctors in Malaysia, and is a nationally known expert on malaria.
- 29. During the 1967 period, the story never came out about JT being hit by a vehicle. That story came out much later in Ringit, a town south of Tana Ratah about 10 kilometers.
- 30. A person in Ringit who might be helpful is Mr. Ho Yee Kap; a former teacher, headmaster and local politician. Anyone at the post office would know where to find him, and he likely knows about the story.
- 31. The search records along with earlier records of the Malay Emergency likely went to the National Museum and then to the Police Museum in Kuala Lumpur.
- 32. Virtually all the orang asli who helped in the search for JT have now passed away.
- 33. Gurkhas, helicopters, and army men participated in the JT search.
- 34. Zinudd bin Yunus in the town of Kuantang has old photos taken of the Moonlight Bungalow, Sunlight Bungalow, the road leading to the bungalows, etc.

Photos related to this interview are presented below.



Cikgo and clips about the JT disappearance, including quotes and photos of Cikgo



Engendarys Epcated high above the town of Brinchang atop a fallico overlooking vant spans of jungle, the Moonlight Bungstow is only accessible via a score vehicle at a time, inset: An ominious sign savine: Moonlight Bungstow, No Cettry greets us at the end of the conditional state of the conditions.

By MICHAEL CHEANG

E were on the hunt for Jim Thompson. No, not Jim Thompson. No, not Jim Thompson the That Silk King, whose disappearance 45 years ago in the Cameron Highlands jungle remains one of the most enduring mysteries in the region. The man we were looking for was taxi driver Ng Kiew Chay, whom the locals of Cameron Highlands refer to as "Jim Thompson". You see, each time we mentioned we wanted to talk about the day Thompson (the actual one, not the

we wanted to talk about the day Thompson (the actual one, not the taxi driver) disappeared, everyone kept telling us the same thing—"Look for that taxi guy Thompson!" Apparently, Ng is a legend of sorts around town. Legend has it that he was the driver of the last taxi Thompson ever took the night before he disappeared. But that's not how he got the nickname "Thompson".

But we are getting ahead of ourselves. The reason we were driving selves.

Thompson\*. But we are getting ahead of ourselves. The reason we were driving around Cameron Highlands looking for this local "Jim Thompson" is because today is the 45th anniversary of Thompson's disappearance. Born in 1906 in Greenville, Delaware in the heartland of America, James Harrison Wilson Thompson was an American architect and former US Army officer in the Office of Strategic Services (the precursor to the Central Intelligence Agency), forerunner of the CIA. He is best known as the Thai Silk King for his role in reviving the ailing Thai silk and textile industry in the 1950s and 1960s after establishing the Thai Silk Company.

Today, the trendy silk fashion retail stores that bear his name still draw large crowds, and his former residence in Banglook, the Jim Thompson Thai House (Museum) on Rama Road 1, Banglook, has become a well-visited tourist destination.

# **Never-ending trail**

On the 45th anniversary of Jim Thompson's disappearance in Cameron Highlands, Star2 takes readers back to that fateful day when the whole town was abuzz with news of a missing mat salleh.



Jim Thompson, the Thai Silk King, who disappeared in Cameron Highlands 45 years ago today.

On March 26, 1967, Thompson on March 26, 1967, Inompson was on holiday in Cameron Highlands, visiting his Singaporean friends Dr T.G. Ling and Helen Ling at the couple's secluded hilltop retreat, the Moonlight Bungalow. At around 3pm that day, Thompson went off on his own to take an afternoon stroll in the nearby jungle. He was never seen or heard from again.

Since then, there has been a

seemingly never-ending stream of rumours, myths and tall tales throughout the years. The fact that his body was never found has raised endless speculation about his disappearance as well as numerous theories about what realls happeared to him.

really happened to him.

For the purpose of this article, however, we decided not to go down the well-trod path of wondering what happened to him. Instead, we wanted to know how the locals reacted during the first fateful days that the Thai Silk King

went missing Our guides in Cameron Highlands for the day were local entrepreneur Gerard Richard, who runs local tour company Cameron Secrets Travel and Tours Sdn Bhd; and See Kok Shan, the proprie-tor and curator of the wonderfully nostalgic Time Tunnel Local Museum. We couldn't have asked for better guides for the day, as between the two of them, they seemed to know almost every sin-gle person in Cameron Highlands, But first things first. A story on

but this things inst. A story on Jim Thompson would not be com-plete without a visit to the legen-dary Moonlight Bungalow, the last place Thompson was seen alive. Located high above the town of Brinchang atop a hilltop over-

looking vast spans of jungle, the Moonlight Bungalow is only acces-sible via a small, steep road that is only wide enough to accommodate one vehicle at a time.

one vehicle at a time.

An ominious sign saying
"Moonlight Bunglow (sic): No
Entry' greets us at the end of the
road, where we park and approach
the cottage complex on foot. The
bungalow compound is eerily quiet,
and the breeze that blows through
it sends a slightly disconcerting chill
up our spines. up our spines.

#### Jungle paths

The cottage itself is an impres sively handsome structure – a two-storey English Tudor-style cottage surrounded by majestically ancient pine trees and old, gnarly hibiscus bushes, accompanied by a separate building that contains the staff quarters and garage. As we stood on the cottage's

As we stood on the cottage's veranda (allegedly the last place where Thompson was seen alive), Richard pointed out several lit-tle paths leading from the cottage into the jungle. "All the bungalows around Cameron Highlands have little shortcuts like these leading through the jungle to the town; so any one of these could have been the path that Thompson used that day," he said.

day," he said. The search for Thompson involved hundreds of personnel, including local orang asli trackers,

the police's "Jungle Squad", army glurkas, and Malaysian field police. He was even deerned important enough for the US military to deploy helicopters from their base in Thailand to help with the search. For S.S. Raja, the helicopters were what he remembers most about that day, Back then, the folk of Tanah Rata were already privy to the occasional helicopter ferrying VIPs or members of the toyal family over their little town, but on that fateful day, he noticed more of those infernal whirtybirds hovering over their little town than usual. "We were all used to helicopters landing in the field, especially when VIPs visited Cameron, but this time it was different. The army and police had set up tents there, and there seemed to be more helicopters landing and taking off than usual," he said during an interview in Petaling Jaya, Selangor. Raja, who was about 20 years of their remembers the police and military setting up camp on the Tanah Rata field opposite the government quarters where his family lived, and mobilising a massive search in the little was the lit

ernment quarters where his family lived, and mobilising a massive search in the jungle. "There had been searches for

missing people in the jungle before, but never one as large-scale as this,"

According to retired teacher Alias Abdul Rahsid, the whole town was abuzz back then. The case was the main topic in kopitiams for weeks, and almost everyone had a story or

rumour to share.
According to Alias, the hype on
Thompson's disappearance only reached its peak on the fourth day.
"During the first three days, we didn't think much about it. People got lost in the jungles all the time, and we expected the orang asli or the Jungle Squad to find him with-out any problem." he said. Then on the fourth day of the

search, Thompson fervour went up another notch when word got

out that a reward of about RM200,000 was being effected for anyone who found Thompson, Naturally, the locals began organising their own search parties as well. Back then, there was very little to do in Cameron Highlands. We usually spend out time after work playing football or tounders in the packing," recalled Alias, who was about 23 at the time. But when word got out that there was a reward being offered for this missing white say, everyone was leaving work early 50 hey could go into the jungle to look for him!"

Psychics

One aspect of the search stood out: Alias recalls that the search drew quite a number of mediums, bomobs and psychos from all over the world, each claiming that they could find the missing tycon. An article published in The Stor (Che Ues In The Bones, March 30, 2010) corroborates with Alias 'story, with the former OCPO of Cameron Highlands Deputy Supt (Retired) Ismail Hashim stating that he had logged 118 such individuals (not counting others that came much later), and that 'For days, the hills were alive with the sound of incantations, going and firecrackers to ward off evil spirits'.

"I remember one particular monk who went into a trance while in the jungle, and accidentally stepped on a homet's nest!" Alias chuckled, adding that although the official search eventually lasted more than a month, by the second week, everyone had pretty much resumed their normal daily lives, though the kopitian gossip still went on. But back to Thompson the taxi driver and how he got that nickname. What intrigued us the most about Ng's story is how everyone in Tanah Rata seemed to know of his involvement, and some of these stories were almost as varied and far-fetched as the ones told about the actual Jim Thompson.

After paying a visit to a couple of cont the negatify frequents,

jim Thompson.

After paying a visit to a couple of spots he usually frequents, we eventually caught up with Ng. taking a nap inside his taxi on the main street of Tanah



House of mystery: The Moonlight Bungalow is a two-storey English Tudor-style cuttage surrounded by majestic pine trees and old, grarly hibscus bushes. (Pk. leht) Retired teacher Alias Abdul Ratisid recalls that the search for Thompson drew quite a number of mediums, bomohs and psychics from all over the world, each claiming that they could find the missing tycoon.

been saddled with the name
Thompson' something be
seemed quite perpleased about
even to this day.

I wasn't the only one who
went in looking for him that
day, but I don't know why I was
the only one who got called
The some the gruntest.

Gameron Highlands that bears
the name of the Thai Silk King
though. The Cameron Highlands
Resort has a jim Thompson
Mystery Trail, which may not be
the exact trail Thompson took,
but is nevertheless a wonderful
way to see the natural beauty of
Cameron Highlands.

The Strawberry Park Resort
has a jim Thompson Terrace and
serves a decent "jim Thompson
Burger." One thing is for sure,
though — even if the truth about
his disappeasance is finally
revealed in the future, the legend
of jim Thompson will remain as
if has been those past 45 years
– as an intricate part of Cameron
Highlands' history.



## What happened to Jim Thompson?

THERE have been count-less explanations for Jim Thompson's disappearance over the years, some mundane, some ludicrous, and some that should have been made into an episode of The X-Files. Here are some of

- r favourites:

  > Fell to his death in a ravine.

  > Eaten by a tiger/leopard/
  nild boar/python.

  > Swallowed by quicksand.

  > Murdered in a botched
- > Accidentally killed by ang ash with a dart from a

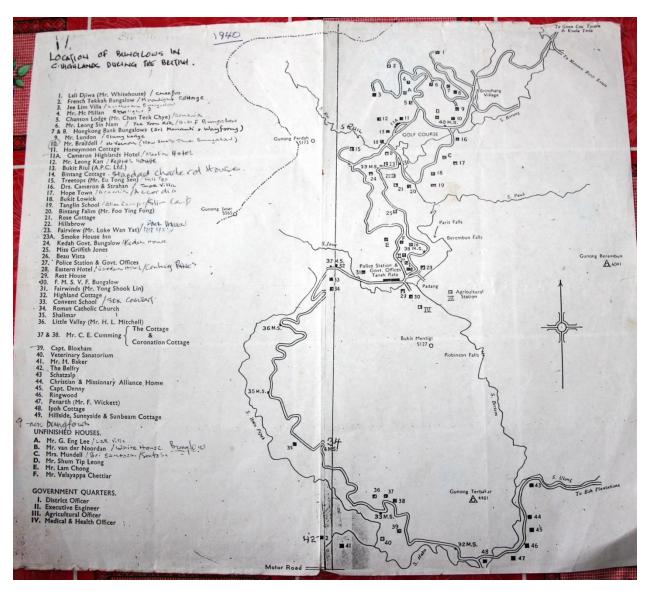
> Staged his own disappear-ance after his cover was blown while working for the CIA.

entered the jungle with a group of friends to look for Thompson.

- > The main course in a can-nibal feast. Kept by a tribal princess as
- > Keps by a love stave.
  > Struck by a vegetable farmers fruck and buried in the outskirts of a vegetable patch.
  > Struck by a timber forry and body disposed of at a saw-
- mil.

  > Captured by the Malayan
  Communist Party, as Cameron
  Highlands was one of the communist hotspots then.
  > According to a psychic,
  he was drugged unconscious,
  abducted and flown off to
  Cambodia. (When it was
  pointed out to the psychic that
  there was no landing strip in
  Cameron Highlands, he amended the story to a boat ride to a
  neighbouring state where he
  caught the plane).





Map of CH provided by Cikgo, with hardmarked date "1940" and later names of bungalows. The Moonlight Bungalow is #2 on the map. The Lutheran Mission Bungalow is #3.

```
Our strates
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    1940
        LOCATION OF BUNGLOWS IN CHARLENGE DURING THE BELTING.
             1. Lali Djiwa (Mr. Whitehouse) / cneepro
2. French Tekkah Bungalow / M various College
3. Jee Lim Villa / water 1 grant College
4. Mr. Mc Millan Stage 1 grant Gra
           19. Tanglin School Asian Carap Asian Carap (Mr. Foo Ying Fong)
21. Rose Cottage
22. Hillsbrow
23. Fairview (Mr. Loke Wan Yat) Asia Wall State
24. Kedah Govt. Bungalow (Mr. Loke Wan Yat)
25. Miss Griffith Jones
26. Beau Vista
            26. Beau Vista
27. Police Station & Govt. Offices
28. Eastern Hotel / Gordon Hotel / Control Parket
                                  Rest House
F. M. S. V. F. Bungalow
Fairwinds (Mr. Yong Shook Lin)
Highland Cottage
Convent School / SEK Courses
Roman Catholic Church
              33.
                                     Shalimar
                                    Little Valley (Mr. H. L. Mitchell)
                                                                                                                                                          The Cottage
             37 & 38. Mr. C. E. Cumming & Coronation Cottage
                                     Capt. Bloxham
                40. Veterinary Sanatorium
41. Mr. I1. Baker
                42. The Belfry
43 Schatzalp
                44. Christian & Missionary Alliance Home
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    35 M.S.
                45. Capt. Denny
46. Ringwood
47. Penarth (Mr. F. Wickett)
48. Ipoh Cottage
49. Hillside, Sunnyside & Sunbeam Cottage
UNFINISHED HOUSES.
               A. Mr. G. Eng Lee / Lee Ville

B. Mr. van der Noordan / White House Brunglo 10

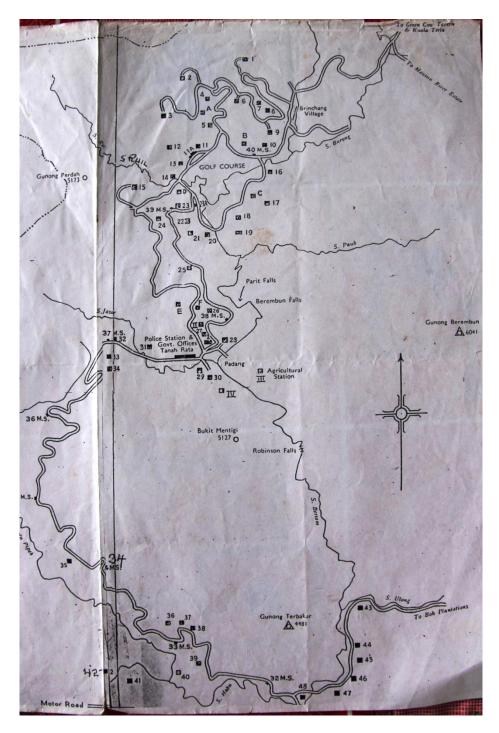
C. Mrs. Mundell / Sr. Santasan / Sentasan

D. Mr. Shum Yip Leong

E. Mr. Lam Chong

F. Mr. Velayappa Chettiar
                  GOVERNMENT QUARTERS.
                          I. District Officer
                    II. Executive Engineer
III. Agricultural Officer
IV. Medical & Health Officer
```

Closeup of the legend of the bungalow map



Closeup of the map area of the bungalow map #end#



## Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview Notes

Focus topic of attempted interview: JT search operations in 1967

Name of interviewee: Denis Horgan, JT searcher, US Army Lieutenant in 1967 and aide to Brig. Gen. Edwin Black

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: Friend
Date interviewed: May-July 2014 via emails
Approximate duration of interview: NA
Location of interview: LT in Port Vila, Vanuatu; DH in Connecticut, USA
Interviewed by phone mail in-person or email_x_
Interview undertaken by: _Lew Toulminx and
Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)
Interview conducted in: English xSpanish Other (describe)
Quality of language communication: Poor Fair Good Excellent_x
Contact info for this interviewee:
Bias observed in this interviewee: No: _x_ Yes Possible
Describe bias if other than "No"

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: military aide to Brig. Gen. Edwin Black in 1967; friend and observer of JT; accompanied Black to Malaysia for several days to search for JT in April 1967; then returned for a few days with Peter Hurklos; later editor of *The Bangkok World* (a leading English language paper in Bangkok), and in 2013 the author of *The Bangkok World*, a book about Bangkok in the 1960s and 1970s, with brief discussion of the JT search and its effect on DH's life.

Abbreviations: This respondent: DH; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH; Katharine Thompson Wood: KTW

Est. age of interviewee: about 72

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

Denis Horgan via email, with his answers in **bold**:

## May 19, 2014

## **Hello Llewellyn**

Here's my answers to your excellent array of questions. Quite a few I have no recollection about and have noted that. I have a good memory of these events as they were so amazing to me and proved so critical in my life. Plus I have revisited the matter often over the years. That said, it was so very long ago that things might have been forgotten, misremembered or enhanced by the passage of time. All I can pledge is that this is my best memory. I knew and know quite a bit about this event because of my involvement in it and my role as it played out. This gave me access, direct or subtle, to things that I would not otherwise have known. When I note, for example, that I don't think that Jim had mood problems this is less from my personal observation, which was there, but also from having been so engaged in the process that I would have heard from others if that were the case.

I hope this is a little helpful and I will be pleased to answer other questions or ones these may inspire.

## **Denis**

## **Subject of Search (Jim Thompson)**

(Surprisingly, after reading 4 books and numerous articles and files, I still don't have a lot of very basic info, which would help ID the body if it was found)

1. Height of subject in March 1967 (an estimate is useful, but mark as such):

I am not precisely sure of Jim's height but would estimate it as 5-foot, 10-inches. Both General Black and I are/were just over 6-feet and Jim was not inordinately shorter than either of us.

2. Weight of subject in March 1967 (an estimate is useful, but mark as such):

## only guessing that he was in the 175-pound range

3. Past broken bones, war wounds, etc.? Describe:

#### Unknown to me

4. Unusual dental work? General description of dental work status? (e.g "numerous crowns" or "perfect teeth with no fillings" etc.)

Unknown to me – there didn't seem to be anything particularly memorable about his teeth to me – not over-white as dentures might be even for a smoker, not over-yellowed etc.

5. Tattoos, markings, other unusual features?

## Unknown, none visible anyway

6. Watch usually worn? Describe:

## Wristwatch on his left wrist, clock-face on upper side of wrist, dark leather strap

7. Watch fob, chain, etc.? Describe:

## None that I know of

8. Was JT right- or left-handed?

## Right-handed

9. Reading or other glasses usually kept on his person? Describe:

## I don't remember him wearing glasses so if he did for reading he likely did not carry them with him in his pocket

10. Challenge coin, lucky coin, other durable items usually kept on person? Describe:

#### Unknown

11. Rings, bracelets, pocket knife, neck items, special pen, cigarette holder, cigar cutter, permanent toothpick or any other items usually kept on person? Describe:

١

12. Belt and buckle definitely \_\_\_\_ or likely \_\_\_ worn on day of disappearance: Describe:

Things were very informal (although Jim was an old school formal guy not at all sloppy or overly-casual) so he might well have had slacks or casual pants with no belt

13. Shoes definitely or likely worn on day of disappearance? Describe:

Probably loafers. He would not have worn formal shoes or hiking boots. The vacation was casual enough that he might have worn slippers or flipflops but it doesn't feel right that he would

14. Describe soles of shoes if tread is known or likely: (e.g. "hiking boot with nailed soles" or "dress leather shoe with smooth tread," etc.)

#### unknown

15. Did JT often carry more than one pack of cigarettes with him?

## Not that I know of. It would be unlikely

16. Did JT have two or more gall stone pillboxes, so that leaving one at the Moonlight Bungalow was perhaps not so unusual?

I don't know that he had two; that would be odd. His condition was not so critical that he would have a separate supply always at the ready

17. How often was JT getting gall stone attacks in the months or weeks before the disappearance?

#### Unknown to me

18. Other recent medical problems? Describe:

## Not that I know about and I think I would have heard about any afterwards

19. JT's mental condition (cheerful, depressed, etc.) as actually observed by you in the week or two before the disappearance?

Jim was always cheerful and good natured; he was famous for it. If he had gone off his game, being cranky or disturbed it would have been noticeable. But mature people do have their masks they put before outsiders

20. Did JT have more than one passport?

#### Not that I know of

## Search Operations

21. What witnesses (who stated they actually saw JT after he left the MB on Sunday afternoon), did you interview, or were present at their interview, or heard descriptions of their interview at the time? Describe: (if name is unknown, a general description such as "maid at the XXX bungalow"):

All the witnesses – except people we spoke to conversationally (bungalow staff, etc) – had been interviewed before we got there and I don't recall us doing any follow up discussions except in detail with the police and other authorities

22. What exactly did each witness say?

Contemporary accounts would be a better source than I on this, I'm afraid

23. About how many days after the disappearance did each witness come forward?

What little witness information that came forward was available right away – not days later as I recall

24. Credibility of each witness?

Predictably uneven. Bungalow staff saying that he was outside, wearing this or that would be dependable. Others saying that they saw him elsewhere less so. People wanted very much to be helpful but a lot of quacks and money-hunters muddied up the picture, too.

25. Location of each witness and location of JT at the time of sighting? (e.g. "maid was in the kitchen of the XXX bungalow and JT was about 20 meters away in the garden of that bungalow")

#### Unknown

26. Est. age of each witness in 1967? Now deceased?

Unknown. There could well be people alive from those days. The maids were young enough to be, like me, still alive

27. One witness reportedly observed JT "sitting on a large rock beside the road, smoking a cigarette." But how was that possible if JT left his cigarettes behind at the MB?

If the account is believed (and I did not think it rang accurate) Jim could well have had a cigarette or two in his pocket or hand leaving the pack behind. A smoker would do that, thinking that he was off for an easy stroll.) (I was a smoker then) But the incident didn't feel right because it would seem to suggest that Jim either has winded from a brief walk, was waiting for someone or just resting and enjoying the view. Likely he hadn't gone far enough to be winded. There was no cigarette butt found. And it would be an odd thing to have someone come all the way to the MB area for a meeting in the open like that and Jim would hardly have known that the others would nap just then for him to make a secret rendezvous.

28. Did you interview or are you familiar with a witness who reportedly saw JT heading toward the golf course, on Sunday afternoon? Describe:

#### No. Unknown to me

29. Did your team or any team investigate the rural area E and SE of the golf course in town? Or was the entire focus SW, W, NW, N and NE of the MB?

#### We did not search there and do not know if others did.

30. When I visited the MB the feature that caught my eye was a two-headed ridge just W of the MB, on the other side of the ravine and stream. I thought that if I only had a couple of hours to walk, that is where I would go to get a different view. Thoughts? Was that area well searched? Was there a path up that ridge then?

I don't remember that but it could very well be something to consider. The fact that it was already into the afternoon might argue against him setting off on something that ambitious. I think, too, that this was a restful holiday rather than one to gather new strenuous experiences.

31. How many paths (if any) were there in 1967 that went downhill from the MB, other than the access road?

Beyond the road, there were trails and paths that lead into the brush and trees but I don't know how many or how far they penetrated.

32. Composition of your team? Describe:

Brig Gen Ed Black, me, Dean Frasche – another old friend of Jim's, a businessman from Bangkok. The general and I were the ones doing the searching and trying to help. Dean was there to be at the scene of his very good friend's disappearance.

I returned for two days some weeks later with Peter Hurkos, a psychic engaged by the family in the United States. On that trip, we generally wandered around the scene and spoke with various people – but did not conduct actual searches. It was far too late for that to be helpful.

33. Approx. date of arrival? (either the date or something like "about 7 days after the disappearance")

I believe we arrived within 48-60 hours of Jim's disappearance being discovered.

34. Approx. date of departure?

We left after three days on this trip

35. Strategy of team?

Our strategy was to help the search effort in any way possible and to learn what we could and to add to the resources and weight of the interest in the disappearance. We did not imagine that we knew more than the local authorities about the region or conditions there. General Black, Dean Frasche and to a lesser but still significant sense I were friends of Jim's and the immediate sense was that he was missing and we should do what we could to help. More, we appreciated that the local people had more experience than did we in jungle searches there but that we could help if they needed anything different and, frankly, add clout to the game if that was required.

#### 36. Tactics of team?

Our first imperative was to be briefed on everything that had been done. The general was used to be being briefed and was an excellent thinker and military mind. He was not a sergeant or lieutenant so wasn't expecting to do the small things of people better suited to that. (That's why he had people like me around.) He had a strong command presence, a deep concern for his missing friend and a personality that was shaped by years of engagement in complex matters. After what familiarization we were able to master, we joined the searching, being careful not to get in the way of the organized patterns of the locals which had developed by then. Together and separately we slogged through the jungle (with guides to keep *US* from disappearing), adding what small manpower we could. More important probably, the general worked with the local authorities to consider alternatives as the search failed and to be involved and to help in whatever ways possible.

37. Est. number of person-days delivered in actually searching on the ground, in the field? (not including overhead time, rest time, travel time, etc.)

Overall, this varied. For our part we spent the better part of two days in the jungles and woods. At first word of Jim's disappearance, only a few searchers were used, and these I believe didn't really start until the following morning. By the time he was discovered gone it was late afternoon and early evening. Evidently the friends and Moonlight staff looked around some until it became too dark to safely continue. As things picked up dozens were brought in. There was a not a huge constabulary or military up there. When the disappearance became well-known lots of people showed up, and it wasn't always coordinated very tightly – although it was not a mob scene as the authorities there commanded respect because of the nature of the case and the nature of their rule. Persondays would be in the high hundreds as local officials, professional trackers and others are factored in.

38. Where was this field searching done?

Around the MB vicinity and into the jungles and surrounding countryside. The local search started in the immediate area of the cottage and spread out deeper and deeper into the forest/jungle as topography allowed

39. What maps were used?

I am not sure. The Malaysian authorities (police and military) had very good maps of the area which they shared with us but I do not know the names or details

40. Was the 1963 detailed CH topo map (scale of 1:12,672) the key map? (I can send you a copy if that would help refresh your memory)

I'd be happy to look at that map but am not sure that I'd know it was the one in use on the spot.

41. But this map has a legend that obscures the area just NW of the MB. What map was used for that area, and for the large area to the W and N of the CH topo map?

## Unknown to me if that happened

42. Did your team annotate your maps?

The general and I marked in pencil and ball point areas we had searched for our own purposes – to avoid duplication etc

43. Where did these maps (and other docs) end up, so that they (and other search docs) might be examined?

As for the maps, I don't know. I may have included a map in the file that I maintained that eventually went to Charles Sheffield, the Thompson Company's

representative on this case. All my files and reports ultimately went to Bill Warren and the company which was the element centralizing efforts on behalf of Jim.

44. Did General Black develop his own strategy and tactics that were different from the other teams already present? Describe:

I don't think our approaches were different from the local authorities in any major way. We had some jungle experience from the war and being in Thailand but appreciated that this was their area, their responsibility. Searching for someone in the jungle was something they had done before – and they had brought in trackers especially suited to such work -- and we didn't think we were there to teach them. We didn't find that they were doing a bad job, just an unsuccessful one.

45. What was the coordination like between your team and other SAR units present? Describe:

The coordination was very good. Because of Jim Thompson's stature the case had attracted incredible attention and the arrival of a US general underscored that. The local authorities were, as near as could be told, professional, open, and eager for any assistance possible. They shared information and their plans and seemed open to any suggestions we might have had. By my second visit the search had ended so there was no one particularly to work with – although out of professional courtesy I checked with them first and was advised that there had been no progress in between

46. What were the SAR or other groups that were in the field or had been fielded?

At the very beginning the local effort was the police officials and a few individuals collected to launch the search. As this proved without results and the likelihood of a problem was clearer more police and searchers were brought in. Some regional soldiers were enlisted by the end of it to swell up the search force. One or maybe two Malaysian military helicopters made brief overflights but that wasn't particularly helpful because of the thickness of the vegetation. It was worth a try. (There are reports that General Black and I had US helicopters but that was definitely not the case. Reports also said that we had razzle-dazzle American jungle search machines but they were referring to the radios we brought to talk with each other – which didn't work very well at all) To call the Cameron Highlands a "resort" area overstates it: it was and is a collection of cottages and comfortable homes, not at all a community or town so the numbers of local officials to draw upon was small.

47. Did some have specific training in SAR? Describe:

I believe at the beginning the search teams were made up of local police and residents. Probably there was little or no formal training in SAR but these were

people who lived in the area and who knew it well and would be aware of the complexities of the terrain and vegetation. Later the group expanded in number if not necessarily in trained skills. A professional, Richard Noone, was brought in who did have experience in jungle work. I think the principal contribution of the larger search force was in volume of eyes and feet rather than distinctly higher skills. Countries thereabouts do not have often have large forces of especially trained people.

48. Strategy and tactics of each unit? (including if known the spacing distance of searchers in any line)

As above, the first stages of the search was a general calling out and looking for signs of Jim or trouble that might have befallen him. This would have been on the cottage grounds, the roadway top it and, modestly, into the trees and bushes. I know there are photos of searchers in formal line but I never saw that during my time. There were varying sorts of terrain and some might have suited a line but the jungle was thick enough that the searchers – as would have presumably Jim, too – stuck close to the trails. You could not much run out a line of bush-beaters in there.

49. Maps used? Annotated? Likely location now?

Unknown to me. The local police and military had good maps of the region but I don't know which were sued. [used]

50. Large jungle searches are often so difficult that what start out as "line searches" with evenly spaced searchers quickly evolves into walking up and down jungle trails looking for clues, rather than actually searching the virgin jungle. Thoughts here?

I think that is true. As noted above, the searching I saw was individuals and small groups of individuals working their way down increasingly difficult trails, exploring out from those trails where possible or where it seemed possible that a person might have gone. That is what the general and I did also. You could only go so far before it was clear that an unhealthy person or one lost and confused wouldn't have gone much farther.

51. Large SAR efforts often have numerous problems that are not apparent to the outside world, including lack of a unified command, lack of documentation of areas searched and data acquired, lack of a central intelligence and analysis unit, lack of information sharing across organizations, seizing on an initial clue or line of inquiry too soon, and closing off other lines, etc. etc. Comments re this or other issues in the JT case?

Certainly that would be true – in this case or anywhere in such circumstances. This is a remote area, heavily vegetated with trails that ultimately went no where. The command of the search seemed to us to be professional but, of course, local

villagers were recruited who were barely educated in our terms and certainly unaware of communications and intelligence priorities and techniques. I mean no criticism in that: it was an isolated, underpopulated region, almost 50 years ago. I would be unfair to fault them for not being as sophisticated as those others who had no better luck. At the end of these questions I add observations that might speak to this in terms of how the sense subtly then directly shifted from looking for a lost person to looking for clues to the kidnapping of a person.

52. There is a lot of debate (amazingly) about the state of the jungle in the CH in the search area in1967. I have one source that states that the jungle was "generally triple canopy, so that there was almost always open ground with little ground cover underneath, and line searchers could walk 40 yards apart and still see each other and any clue." Another credible source says, "No, that may have been the case down on the coast, but in the CH the jungle then and now was single canopy with very dense ground cover and hence line searchers should have been spaced every few yards to have a high chance of finding something." Thoughts?

I used to know something about jungles from my Army days but happily have had no contact whatever with them since. The "jungle" there was not the steamy, swampy, hellish nature of thiose in, say, southern Vietnam, southern and southwestern Thailand and parts of Laos. It was hot even that high. It was thick with trees and undergrowth. There would be open patches that would close up quickly as you went along. The branch-cover was thick in most places yet there was heavy vines and bush presence underfoot. The soil was drier than some might think of in a "jungle" but the land was very uneven, rocky in places and tricky underfoot everywhere. You could have lines of searchers on the roadsides and areas around the cottage but they weren't practical in that sense inside the vegetation.

53. The only picture I have located (from the *Straits Times*) of the actual search shows a line of searchers very closely spaced, moving through dense ground cover, waist high, in a fairly open area with no canopy at all. How typical was that? Do you have any pictures of the actual search?

I know that picture, if it's the one in Bill Warren's book. That would be typical of some open areas but as can be seen the trees and high stuff is very close where it is wooded and shady.

54. Any chance that *Straits Times* photo was staged? (This often happens, since actual SAR ops are very hard to capture on film.)

I suppose it could have been staged by the authorities but I doubt it and don't have any knowledge to make me think it was.

55. What types and number of search dogs were used in the JT search, in your observation (or were told about at the time by actual searchers)? What were their findings?

I never saw dogs there and don't remember any. There could have been dogs used and it would make sense that the British-tradition of the military might have such animals. Dogs are less common generally in Asia and in muslim cultures than ours. But I don't know.

56. Particularly, were dogs used at the MB and what did their handlers conclude?

## As above, I don't know.

57. What the weather was on the day of disappearance and in the five or so days afterwards in the search area? High and low temps? Rain?

The weather was very pleasant. It was cool by Southeast Asian standards and that's why Jim and the others were there in the first place – to avoid the Bangkok heat and rain. I guess that the daytime temperature was in the high 70s and considerably cooler at night. There was no rain when we were there and I do not believe there was any when the disappearance happened.

58. Some sources say that the CH search area gets very cold at night at that time of year, and could lead to hypothermia in JT. Others say that is an exaggeration. Thoughts?

Perceptions are relative on what is "cold." I visited Burma once and a man was telling me with shivers of dread at the recollection at how the temperature had fallen in a recent time to the low 70's "It was like Russia!!" he said. Yes it is cool at night there and you would wear a sweater. Jim did not have warm clothes with him when he disappeared so he would certainly be at risk of the cool weather – notably if he had perspired heavily from being lost or had fallen into a stream. It could be cool at night even in Vietnam's highlands where it is considerably warmer than the CH. The local authorities said that they were concerned about how well Jim could be doing is he were wandering around increasingly lost at night.

## Other Sources, and the KTW Case

59. Is Martha Galleher still alive? Do you have any contact info on her? (My letter to her address in Baltimore was returned as "not deliverable"). Any contact info on descendants who might have additional info?

I don't know Ms Galleher and have not read her book. I did a quick search and found stuff about her selling property n Towson etc but no indication of where she is.

60. Galleher in her book refers to a number of cables and reports, mostly Dept. of State, on the search efforts, that she was given that covered the period immediately after the disappearance. These would be very useful, and I have not been able to find them at National Archives II or via FOIA. Thoughts on locating them?

I imagine a Freedom of Information request is about the only hope of shaking free some of them from the State Department if they exist there.

61. Do you have any evidence on whether the KTW murder and JT disappearance are connected? Any info on the KTW case that might be useful? (The Penn. State Police cold case officer confirms that this case is still open.)

I have no evidence on the Wood murder being connected and would love to know how it might be. I was overseas at the time and in that pre-internet age very little information was available. There was much made of the coincidence and it seemed odd but nothing ever came up that I know of how it might at all be connected. There were so many totally crazy theories abounding in those days that another one didn't seem out of order; of course, at the same time, the truth could also get lost in the clatter. But for all the theorizing it never went anywhere that I know of

62. I have received a cryptic response to my FBI FOIA which states that re the KTW case, "records which may have been responsive to your request were destroyed 05/16/1978." Thoughts on the FBI destroying a file on an open murder case in the USA? Any significance to that date or year?

That does seem strange but I know nothing about it.

63. Any thoughts on Gen. Ed Black's files and where they are?

Likely all the general's papers are with his widow Cobey Black in Honolulu. She was helpful to Josh Kurlantzik although I hear she is very old and feeble and given to dark CIA theories about everything. I don't know that Ed Black kept voluminous "files" in the historian sense but there could be papers that have some insights. I was deeply aware of his thinking on this matter and don't know that he had any theory or knowledge that would open the door entirely to solution.

64. Do you think Joshua Kurlantzick would open his files?

I don't know. He was very open with me – but he needed my help so was hardly likely to be rude or anything. He is a nice man, very smart and thorough. His book has missteps here and there and I don't agree with his conclusion but he spent a lot of time on this case and would be a good source if he were to share.

65. Do you have any impressions of Mr. Pollitz's reported sighting of JT in Tahiti some months after the disappearance?

There were so many fevered sightings and theories that I can't keep track. Clearly none proved fruitful in locating Jim Thompson. This is a most amazing case with no solution in sight. Maybe your efforts will change that and I am happy to help where possible – particularly if you want to send me to Tahiti to loll around the beach incognito studying the native women for clues.

66. Any other questions I should have asked that I didn't?

I'm not sure this is another question but a chance for me to insert an observation or feeling that I had – and shared – from and about the searching.

I believe that the local authorities determined in their minds early on that Jim had been kidnapped and removed from the area. Before all the crazy schemes and conspiracy theories took root, the thinking was that only a few options were likely: He wandered off into the landscape, got lost and met a bad end: falling into a hole, getting attacked by wild animals, collapsing from bad health and being lost in the underbrush. Or, that he had been kidnapped for ransom as had happened fairly often in Malaysia – usually involving rich Chinese businesspeople who would have the ransom paid and all would go back to normal.

I came to subscribe to this latter theory myself. As they carefully explained and demonstrated to us, people can easily get lost; people can get hurt; people can even get attacked by animals. But in their experience there are generally clues aplenty of this: a shoe, torn clothing, blood, body fragments. After a time, when the person has died from exposure or his injuries, animals and birds attack the corpse in a way that makes the deed obvious. Days into the disappearance, searchers were particularly told to look for circling birds and other signs of scavengers. From the insurgencies of the 1950s against the British, from day-to-day life the local authorities had some experience in seeing this.

Lacking any developments, their thinking seemed to have increasingly defaulted to the kidnap theory. A rich foreign figure would be a likely target for kidnappers. If by design or happenstance they came upon Jim on the road they could easily snatch him and take him away – in a car or, less likely, overland. When no ransom was asked, it could be thought that Jim had died in their hands or that the situation has gotten just to hot and they killed him and got rid of the corpse far from the search region. There are plenty of reasons to challenge this but there are plenty of reasons to challenge all the various theories.

I do not suggest that the local authorities slowed down or lessened the intensity of the site search but you could feel as days went on that they believed they were

looking in the wrong place. The problem is that there was and is no way to know what is the right place.

This came to be my view as well – even as I can readily debunk it (why no ransom? Why didn't someone rat out his kidnapper compatriots for the rewards? Etc.?) But as far as the searching went, there was an increasing sense that he was not going to show up alive in those conditions after so much time. We know from the war and other circumstances that bodies do vanish in the hostile environs of the region, even as thousands of people could be looking for decades for MIA. But the isolation of the area, the immediate and building search efforts simply didn't provide any clues to support the lost in the jungle aspect, even as that could very well be the case.

\* \* \*

An additional exchange of emails was as follows, in July 2014, with six questions posed to Mr. Horgan:

First [question], attached is a good copy of the 1963 [topo] map that I found, uncataloged (!) at the Library of Congress. This is the most detailed map of the CH I have been able to locate. Does it look familiar? I suspect that this is the map that would have been used in 1967 in the search by the authorities (since mapping is expensive and time consuming, and this map would only have been four years old then) but am not sure. Thoughts?

Note that much of the countryside NW of the Moonlight Bungalow area is obscured by the legend, so I wondered if that largely uninhabited area would have had its own map. Thoughts?

(By the way, the Moonlight Bungalow (MB) is on the map, under the name "Moonlight" and is at the same "latitude" as the words "may be copied" in the legend box on the left. To open the map, you may need to right click on the file, and specify that it should be opened by Microsoft Office 2010 or 2007.)

Second, also attached is a super closeup of the MB. To me it seems to show a possible trail of small black dots running east and SE from the Bungalow. Does that ring a bell? Do you recall any trails, other than the paved access road, leading away from the MB?

[Answer from DH] It would make sense that that was the map the authorities were using. It was not an area that would have a surplus of maps to choose among in those days. The military and old counter-insurgency types might have had their own maps but they couldn't have been much different as to detail. I do remember a trail, maybe two but do not recall exactly which ones they might be. When we

searched we did not use the main road, figuring that that had already been thoroughly and repeatedly searched already.

Third, you said you don't recall any dogs being used by the authorities. Attached (to another email) is an extensive and hopefully interesting interview with a man who was a Lieutenant in the Malaysian Army during the search (please keep this interview confidential and do not share it now -- thanks!). He describes the use of three "trailing" bloodhound style dogs. He also describes the search tactics. Does this jog your memory, or do you have any other reactions to this interview?

The interview with the Malaysian officer sounds exactly right to me. I may well have talked with him closely back then as I tended to deal with the fellow junior officers while the general would compare notes with the higher-ups. Maybe not. His description of the search effort rings true -- although, as before, I wasn't there when the dogs were there. I would agree with his guess that Jim Thompson may have been spirited away by automobile although I would think there's a chance that he was further down the road than at the edge of the compound, for whatever difference that would make. The difference, I think is a that if he put up anything of a struggle the others wouldn't have heard it further away.

Fourth, Martha Galleher mentions three apparent thefts from the Thai Silk Company. Below is a para from my report on this matter, and I wonder if you recall anything about these thefts, whether a culprit was ever found, when the thefts occurred, and whether the thieves might have felt Jim Thompson was an "enemy."

According to Galleher (pp. 38 and 64), there were three major thefts connected to the Company. First was a theft of \$20,000 USD; unfortunately Galleher does not make it really clear when She does state that this theft had still not this happened. been cleared up by February 1968, when it was still being looked into by Charles Sheffield. A suspect in this case was Nath, a company employee (Galleher, p. 68), who was exonerated. (Nath's wife, a doctor, gave periodic B-12 shots to JT.) Second was "padding of bills to the Company by a member of the staff of the Thai Royal Family" (Galleher, p. 134) for deliveries of Thai This apparently was actually a theft from the silk products. Royal Family rather than from the Company, but if the theft was exposed, then a huge scandal would erupt and severe penalties would be imposed on the culprits. This incident occurred "shortly before Jim's disappearance" (ibid.). Third was a theft of about "400,000 ticals' worth of silk" that disappeared from the factory in 1964 (Galleher, p. 56).

I don't know anything about those three thefts. None of those surprises me (except the \$20,000 figure which was a truly enormous sum in those days.) That someone would be padding the bill or other such corruptions is totally in accord with the slippery practices of the time -- and now, probably. Josh Kurlantzik

reached a bit in my opinion to establish a possible economic/commercial rivalry reason for the disappearance but I don't think these sort of thefts were what he had in mind. I would doubt that even a large robbery from Thompson would be a reason to kill him since he was the victim already. But it could be worth exploring.

Fifth, Joshua Kurlantzick states that Jim Thompson had two serious affairs: One was Amelia "Meli" Rangsit, wife of Prince Sanidh Rangsit of Thailand, that JT wanted to marry. Another was Irena Yost, the glamorous Polish wife of Charles Yost, later Amb. to the UN. Do you agree with Joshua's statements? Do you know when these affairs ended (Joshua does not make that clear, and I am wondering if they ended long before 1967, and thus could not have possibly been a factor in the case)?

I have no knowledge whatever of Jim's romantic activities. Josh makes the case that he was a dashing lover with many conquests. I never saw any of that and wouldn't have. There were always rumors about everyone out there then and their personal lives. I have heard everything from Jim being a womanizer, a gay, a near-monk for celibacy. Certainly the times required a little more discretion than maybe today but it was a very open time. I simply do not have any knowledge, however, that would be helpful. Jim was famously social and was always surrounded by people he liked and people who liked him -- whether this was ever romantic is something that never saw nor heard anything that stays with me now.

Sixth, is there anyone I should be interviewing that I have not thought of? Especially anyone still around who participated in the searching?

I wish I could be more helpful. Martha Gelleher, who I do not know, may well be still alive but I hear she is ornery and uncooperative -- and unreliable. I have not read her book. Cobey Black died earlier this year and so many of those from that time are gone. I believe Bill Warren is still around in Bangkok and, while I don't believe he was ever in Malaysia in those years when he did the first book, he was very closely wired into the process and personalities.

\* \* \*

Additional emails:

Mon, Jul 14, 2014 at 6:43 PM

Hello Denis,

Thanks again very, very much for all the information. Very helpful!

Attached for your information (but please don't share yet) and in gratitude is a fascinating little memo from the OSS files, obtained from CIA via FOIA, which is still partially redacted, almost 70 years later. Of course the most fascinating bit is under the black-out!

Interesting, eh?

[This was the memo in which JT is described as resigning from OSS, but the next sentence is redacted.]

Denis Horgan reply:

Sent: Wed, Jul 16, 2014 11:19 pm

Subject: Re: Thanks and a little thank you gift

#### Thanks.

It's hard to imagine what might have been said in 1945 that would be so significant as to be redacted two generations later. My Washington experience was that they so often deleted or redacted the most meaningless things. Ninety-five percent of the "expletive deleteds" in the transcripts of the Nixon tapes were "hell" and "damn" but made the reader think the swears were triple-hyphenated longshoreman talk

denis

On Thu, Jul 17, 2014 at 6:21 PM

Denis,

Ah, OK. I felt that since the train of thought had to do with JT's location and resignation, the natural thing for the next sentence to be would be something like:

"However, Mr. Thompson has agreed to work for US intelligence in his capacity as a businessman, but not under any form of diplomatic cover."

No?

All speculative, of course.

Except that I was able to find, in Archives II, an official paper and complaint from the French govt, [re] "Col. Jim Thompson, ex-OSS" of running arms and military supplies into Cambodia in the 1950s, supporting an anti-Communist rebel group there.

Cheers,

Lew Toulmin

Denis Horgan reply, on Fri, Jul 18, 2014 11:26 pm:

## Lew

Anything's possible, absolutely. Even as it would be odd to see such a revelation as that so casually mentioned in a 'confidential' two-grapher as part of the gigantic de-mobilization following the world war. Interesting about the French since the US position was to support the French in Indochina so a CIA agent supporting the anti-French crowd must have been on his own. Crazy times and anything's possible

denis

#end of interview#



## Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview notes, Rivers' manuscript, photos

**Focus topic of interview**: Search in 1967, police records, bones of JT

Name of interviewee: Captain Phillip J. Rivers, FRGS, FNI, MRIN, MSNI, ACII, ACI, Arb., Master Mariner

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none

Date interviewed: 25 Nov 2013

Approximate duration of interview: 150 minutes

Location of interview: Capt. Phillip's home, north Brinchang, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Interviewed by phone \_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_

Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_\_\_

Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)

Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_ Excellent\_x\_\_

Contact info for this interviewee:

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_x\_

Describe bias if other than "No": Respondent asserts that bones at District Health Clinic are

JT's, but cannot provide a link between the bones and JT; respondent states he has copies or originals of JT police search case files, but was not able to find them

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Investigated the JT disappearance and assisted the author of one of the books on the case. Made a presentation on the case, describing the apparent "bones of Jim Thompson."

Abbreviations: This respondent: PJR; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est age of interviewee: about 85 in 2013.

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

## **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. PJR stated that he was at various times a Master Mariner, ship captain, Lloyds of London representative for SE Asia, Assistant Superintendent of Police in Singapore, and officer in charge of the large Singapore Police riot squad. Numerous certificates and photos in his house substantiated these statements, as well as substantiating the many "postnomial" letters to which he is entitled. He is also the author of a short book criticizing the book 1421: The Year the Chinese Discovered the World by Gavin Menzies, for lack of scientific evidence, proof or footnotes. [The Menzies book asserts that the Chinese sailed all over the world, and discovered America, long before Columbus.]
- 2. PJR stated that he has been a resident of the CH for many years, although he was not present in 1967. He has a lovely house overlooking a tea plantation "with a million dollar view" and many mementos. He stated that "I am not so steady on my pins now" and appeared in poor health. He stated that he "is a Muslim now, and I have been to Mecca several times."
- 3. PJR stated that he was at a wedding and met OCPSD [Officer Commanding the Police SubDistrict] of Tanah Rata, named Ismail. This eventually led to PJR obtaining from Ismail the police search files on the disappearance of JT, since the CH Police were not interested in keeping the documents, because many years had passed since the case was over. PJR states that these files "are the key" to resolving the JT case.
- 4. PJR states he wrote a paper called "Are These the Bones? the True Search for Jim Thompson," partly based on these police files. He presented this paper at a meeting in Ipoh, Malaysia in about 2010. [A copy of the paper is presented below.]
- 5. According to PJR, his paper was also partly based on a story which surfaced some years ago, well after 1967, in Ringlet village, about 15 miles south of Tanah Rata. This story was that a Chinese man from Ringlet was driving a truck in 1967, barreling down a road about a km east of the MB, when he came around a blind curve and accidently hit a Westerner, a man. This Western man was killed in the accident. Panicking, the truck driver loaded the body in the back of the truck, and drove north and buried the body north

- of Brinchang, in the Tring Cap area. Shortly afterwards, the driver realized that he had killed Jim Thompson, due to the huge search in the area. The driver never revealed his crime to anyone, until he was on his deathbed, many years after 1967. Then the driver told his son the story, and was about to reveal the exact location of the body, when he expired.
- 6. PJR does not have the name of the driver or son, or any contact information on them. He has not gone to Ringlet to inquire about the story. He stated that it would be fine if I tried to do that.
- 7. PJR states that a bundle of bones was found north of Brinchang by the orang asli, in the area that matches the story. He believes strongly that the bones found are the bones of JT.
- 8. PJR saw the bundle of bones that was found. When I asked where they were, so I could see them and perhaps get an expert opinion on them and/or some tests, at first he said that they were "in a safe place." Later he stated that they were in the Tanah Rata District Medical Center, and that I could go there and see them myself.
- 9. PJR stated that he did not do any tests on the bones, or get an expert opinion on whether they were human, their age, sex, ethnicity, etc. He did not retain any photo, sketch or inventory of the bones.
- 10. PJR stated that the bones he saw were "a few scattered bones, with no skull." He stated the bones were yellow, possibly including a leg bone, with one about a foot long. They were used in the Clinic for the education of students, and were clearly human.
- 11. PJR stated that the District Medical Officer in Tanah Rata should have the bones, and gave me directions to the Office [in downtown just north of the main shopping strip].
- 12. PJR stated that there were no CTs [Communist Terrorists] in 1967 in the CH area. The Malay Emergency, when the CTs were active, was from 1948 to 1960, but by 1967 this area was quiet. There was a second Emergency, but that was after 1967. Hence JT could not have been kidnapped by Communists.
- 13. PJR stated that there "are tigers around here, with various sightings, but never a tiger attack on a human."
- 14. PJR stated that there are pythons in the CH area that could possibly swallow a man.
- 15. PJR stated that a number of hikers have been injured or died in the CH, mostly by falling into ravines. There was one likely murder, of "Charlie the baker from Amsterdam," who was likely killed by homosexuals and his body dumped in the jungle near Ringlet. He stated that sometimes it seems like there "is a body a week around here," due to many heart attacks when exercising at altitude. These bodies are sent to the coroner at Ipoh [the nearest city] but the cases are obvious in terms of the cause of death.
- 16. PJR stated that the "hornets' nest" where JT was attacked by hornets on a previous visit to CH was at the location of the current large Strawberry Park Resort. The exact location can be found by approaching the Resort, coming up the hill to the security kiosk and raise-able gate. At that location there is now a parking lot to the right. Go to the end of

that parking lot, where there is a steep drop-off. That is where the hornets' nest was, and that is where JT was when he was seen on the day of the disappearance from a bungalow further east, the OMF Mission Bungalow. [The hornets' nest is important, because JT mentioned that he might want to hike over to see the hornets' nest area, before the disappearance.]

- 17. JT was also seen, looking tired, sitting on a boulder, by a girl from the OMF mission bungalow, on the afternoon of the disappearance.
- 18. PJR stated that "JT went to the hornets' nest area" every time he went up to the CH. He did not want to see the hornets, he wanted to see the good view from there. He was a hiker.
- 19. PJR stated that although JT was a hiker, he was not a jungle survival expert. That is a myth and "nonsense." JT was not "dropped into Thailand" and did not survive in the jungle. He was on his way to Bangkok when the atomic bomb was dropped and the war ended. He worked for the OSS and CIA, but did not do jungle warfare. In any case, by 1967 he was old and was not in good condition.

I returned the next day, on 26 November 2013 at 1000 hours, for another interview at Captain Rivers' house, lasting about 2 hours. At that point the Captain made the following points:

- 20. He does not recall when he saw the JT bones at the clinic in Tanah Rata.
- 21. He thinks he recalls hearing that the case of JT's sister being killed in Pennsylvania, just a few months after JT disappeared, was solved. The culprit was a deranged relative. Hence that case was not related to the JT case.
- 22. The "path by the stream" into which "JT tumbled" on a previous visit to CH, was just below the hornets' nest area. He was chased by the hornets. The path and stream are thus downhill from in the Strawberry Resort parking lot lookout point that he described yesterday.
- 23. PJR assisted the author Joshua Kurlantzick (JK) in his book *The Ideal Man*, about the JT disappearance case, by providing information on the case and the police files (but not a copy of the files). PJR thinks that the JK book is very good on the Bangkok part of the story, and that JK had access to the Thai police files and files from US General Black, who was involved in the JT search.
- 24. PJR thinks that on the day of the disappearance, JT walked east from the MB to the "hornets' nest" outlook, now the lower parking lot of the Strawberry Park Resort. On his way back, JT, not being that familiar with the area, having visited only twice before, missed the uphill turning to the MB, and mistakenly continued downhill toward the golf course and main road (from Tanah Rata to Brinchang). Getting tired, he perched for a while on a large boulder beside the road. This boulder still exists today, and is very close to a kilometer marker board, between the Strawberry Park Resort and the main north-

- south road passing the golf course. While resting on the boulder, at about 3:00 to 3:45 pm, JT was seen by a young woman worker from the OMF Bungalow, which was further uphill. She was pushing a bike uphill on the road, toward the OMF. JT then continued downhill around a curve to see if he could figure out where he was. At that point the truck came barreling downhill around the curve, and hit and killed him.
- 25. The *Straits-Times* writer Chow or Chou, a stringer, wrote very good pieces on the disappearance.
- 26. [PJR invited me upstairs to his study/office, to see the police files, his manuscript, and his other momentos.]
- 27. PJR stated that some writers have made a big deal about an incident that happened to JT and Connie Mangskau on their way to the CH. Their taxi from Penang to the CH stopped, and the driver refused to go on. He insisted they change to another taxi to go up from the main road into the CH hills. Some writers have claimed that this was an initial kidnap attempt that did not succeed. PJR said the Malaysian Police looked into this incident thoroughly, as shown in the police files, and there was even a police witness (a police Detective Constable) to the actual incident. PJR said the police investigation showed that the Penang taxis always dropped their passengers at that location, which was where the road up to Tanah Rata left the main Penang to Kuala Lumpur road. The Penang taxis never wanted to go up the very winding mountain roads to the CH, and hence always dropped their passengers at that junction. Thus there was absolutely nothing suspicious about this incident.
- 28. PJR stated that the taxi driver now known as "Jim Thompson" went looking for the real JT a few days after the disappearance. The taxi driver ended up getting very lost himself. PJR has seen no evidence that there was any real connection between the taxi driver and the real JT, that the taxi driver was JT's driver in the CH, or that the taxi driver was scheduled to take JT to Singapore. There may be gossip to that effect, but no evidence and no police records.
- 29. [At this point PJR gave me a copy of his "Bones" paper, and stated that I could use it in my report, analyze it, reproduce it, and otherwise make full use of it.]
- 30. [I then asked PJR if he could show me the actual police file originals or copies that he had. He stated he had them, and began looking around the study for the papers, saying they were in a leather satchel with two sections. He opened several satchels but could not find them; all were empty. He then stated that he might have given them "to one of the lawyers at the Ipoh paper presentation meeting." I asked him for the name of the lawyer, and he stated he could not remember. He said he had the beginnings of Alzheimers, and was not sure where the police files were.]
- 31. PJR stated that he feels that Fatima, the maid who stated that she saw JT on the day of the disappearance, is very unreliable. He says that he met Fatima and knew her, and she was not a good witness.

- 32. PJR stated that he was interested in writing a book that would be an expansion of the paper he wrote on the "Bones." He needs an agent preferably in New York who could get a contract for the book. He stated that he already has over 100 pages written in MS Word 97. [It was clear the PJR was not willing to give me a copy of these pages.]
- 33. [I asked PJR if he had any definitive proof linking the bones found long after the JT disappearance, which ended up in the Tanah Rata clinic, and JT himself. He could produce none.]

The pages below were provided to Lew Toulmin by Capt. Rivers, with no limitation on their use, during the interview above.

Importantly, Capt. Rivers states that this paper was written based on access to and reflects the contents of Malaysian police files on the case and search that he had access to and were in his possession at one time.

[Note that in any massive SAR operation, it is very likely that numerous caches of files would be created by the various organizations participating. It is also very likely that these would not end up together in one repository, and it is also quite likely that many or all of the files would be lost or destroyed after 20-30 years. No cache of search files has so far surfaced in the JT case.]

ARE THESE THE BONES?
The Great Thai Silk King Mystery
and
The Real Search for Jim Thompson

Capt.P.J.Rivers

The Perception and the Reality

Over four decades ago another Easter legend was created when an American millionaire disappeared without trace in the midst of a mountainous tropical jungle. The man was Jim Thompson, well known as the Thai Silk King, the date was Sunday 26 March 1967, the place the Cameron Highlands in peninsular Malaysia. Evocatively set in a former British colonial hill resort, the mystery continues to capture the imagination into the new century.

Less than a week after his 61st birthday, the American Jim Thompson, accompanied by his close Thai friend Mrs Connie Mangskau, left Bangkok for Penang on the way to the Cameron Highlands. They planned an Easter weekend with friends, Dr T.G. and Mrs Helen Ling of Singapore, at their holiday bungalow, called 'Moonlight', in the hills above the golf course, arriving there on a Friday evening.

On that fateful Easter, they all went to a church service and after a picnic lunch returned to the bungalow. When the others retired for a customary siesta they left Thompson standing alone. That was the last that they saw of him and despite a massive search he vanished without a trace. But these are the few agreed facts, almost everything else is disputed with opinions based on incomplete information or sheer imagination.

Pundits pontificated that Thompson became a CIA agent embroiled in Thai politics, because of his wartime service in the OSS (Office of Strategic Services). He was also labelled a man of mystery, a soldier-of-fortune, and even a spy, becoming a double agent working for the Chinese Communists. Conversely they whisked him away to settle the war in Vietnam or to revive the silk trade in China. Shortly after he disappeared, the brutal murder of his sister Katherine Wood in the USA was supposed to confirm this underworld connection but the police found that a deranged relative was the guilty party.

His wartime service was exaggerated to turn him into a skilled jungle fighter who had been behind the Japanese lines in Burma or directing the Thai underground. In fact he was flown into Bangkok after the Japanese surrendered and a few months later returned to the States to be demobbed.

There are divided opinions about the American official attitude to the loss, some say it was indifferent, others that it was instantaneous with Washington directing operations from the background. Neither is correct. But Mr Thompson was a well-known successful businessman and his loss was worldwide news. Moreover, he had a dinner date with the Ambassador at Singapore on Monday, the night after he disappeared. Mr Robert Bliss of the American Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was soon on the scene and continued to liase with the Police.

In addition a Mr Harry Britton came to the Cameron Highlands and handed out some articles about Mr Thompson's success with Thai silk. Announcing that he was Press Attaché in the US Information Service, some think that may have been his cover as a CIA Agent, while others say the same of Mr Bliss.

Despite a legend to the contrary there was no immediate reaction from the CIA in Bangkok. Nor were US helicopters sent from Thailand to the Cameron Highlands to assist. However, RMAF (Royal Malaysian Air Force) helicopters that provided transport to and from Ipoh for senior Police officers also carried out treetop sweeps. Later two passing British army helicopters played a part in these but they had been on a training operation and dropped down to buy some strawberries! The air assistance was brief and limited by the jungle screen hindering

Nor were US troops sent from Thailand although their commanding officer General Black and his aide-de-camp showed up in a private capacity. The General was a personal friend of Thompson, but the 'radar' he brought with him was a field radio - the day of the mobile phone had not yet dawned. After a long weekend they left, however the aide-de-camp was to return later with a theatrical

Those familiar with William Warren's biography Jim Thompson: The Unsolved Mystery (1980) updated in 1998, will recognise much of what will be summarised. Warren's otherwise fine book, often consulted by later writers, was naturally dependent for details of the actual loss and search on what others told him and on newspaper accounts of the time.

However, those sources were not fully aware of the excellent police investigations that were carried out. Using Warren's research and by pouring over newspapers cuttings at the time, articles over the years and books about the affair, a confused, incomplete story emerges about that fateful Sunday and the weeks that followed.

# PART 1 - The Perception from the Media

At Moonlight the Lings and Connie awoke for afternoon tea about five p.m. and when Thompson didn't join them, they assumed that he went for a walk without telling anyone. Dr Ling said "I heard footsteps pass my bedroom door about 3.30 p.m. and presumed it was Mr Thompson taking a stroll".

It was not at all unusual for Thompson to take a solitary walk and he had mentioned wanting to revisit a nearby clearing. Hornets had attacked him there on his first visit and he escaped only by throwing himself down a slope into a stream.

When darkness fell and he still hadn't returned, his friends wondered if he was sleeping, but his bed was undisturbed. They now began to worry because his jacket was on a chair and he didn't have a sweater, so for a chilly night in the mountains he very lightly clad in a short sleeved white shirt.

As there was no sign of Thompson, those at Moonlight became worried that he was lost in the nearby jungle or on the winding roads. Dr Ling went to look for Thompson, driving to the nearest village, Brinchang, then on to the Golf Club and finally to the Smoke House, that was popular with Europeans. At this hotel were the only other persons in the Cameron Highlands who knew Thompson; two Danish friends from Bangkok, Mr S. Gonge, the manager of the East Asiatic Company and Dr Einner Ammundsen, who was Thompson's personal doctor.

There was no sign of Thompson, so Dr Ling went to the Tanah Rata Police Station to report that he was missing. Within minutes the Duty Officer, Probationary Inspector Borhan bin Ujang, contacted his superior ASP Ismail bin Hashim, the OCSD (Officer Commanding Sub-Division) almost invariably entitled OCPD (Officer Commanding Police Division).

It was later said that the initial police response was offhand and they only appeared on the scene the next morning. Even then, it was claimed, police action was poor and the start of their search was delayed. This is nonsense. Although the police detachment in the Cameron Highlands was quite small, around three dozen men or so, Mr Chou Chuan Seng, the local stringer for The Straits Times, correctly reported that the Police response was immediate.

This stringer was an hotelier who turned in the most accurate, although of necessity limited, accounts. The now defunct Eastern Sun was quite the reverse being more sensational. Its reports generally lacked accuracy, although on 30 March, it correctly said, "a battery of pressman had arrived on the scene". Overnight Thompson's disappearance was a story of worldwide interest

Dr Ling returned to Moonlight with ASP Ismail and a small police party. They made one stop pushing along a path by the stream into which Thompson had tumbled when chased by hornets on his first visit. At that time it was overgrown and after a half-mile or so ASP Ismail decided to turn back before they lost their own way in the darkness.

At Moonlight ASP Ismail spoke to the ladies and checked Thompson's room and its contents, later listing his belongings that were all there. It was about ten o'clock on Sunday night when Mohammed, Moonlight's Malay caretaker, guided the police to the 'hornet' clearing.

This site is about one mile distance by road from 'Moonlight' and is now occupied by the Strawberry Park Resort. If you go and stand on their Jim Thompson Terrace you will notice a building on the hilltop across the ravine. This is 'Sunlight' bungalow, formerly called 'Starlight', the sister bungalow of 'Moonlight', which is on the other side of the ridge. At your feet you can see an improved side road below you and hear the stream into which Thompson tumbled many years ago.

ASP Ismail ordered his police party to search the roadside leading to Moonlight for a possibly injured man while he drove along other roads hoping to spot Thompson. He contacted a British Military Police sergeant and asked him to turn out his small detachment to also scour the road fringes for signs of a hit-and-run accident. These men and convalescents from the BMH (British Military Hospital) joined in the daylight search the following day. These few soldiers along with the passing pair of Army helicopters were the only British forces involved in the search for Jim Thompson.

The search was a Police effort although on Monday volunteers carried out a massive search. As well as his own men and a police squad sent up from Tapah along with Orang Asli trackers, ASP Ismail directed local inhabitants, missionaries, students from the American School, convalescent British soldiers, tourists and golfers. There were even two Dayak Rangers with a tracker dog, the only Malaysian Army sent to the scene. By the end of the day almost 200 persons, among whom were the two Danish friends from Bangkok, became engaged in the hunt

From three positions groups were sent out in radiating directions to hunt for a lost and possibly injured man. Naturally they scoured the area around Moonlight but two maidservants from the OMF Bungalow had also separately sighted a man who may have been Thompson, on a nearby road and on the hill of the hornet clearing! The Orang Asli trackers searched further afield covering the area around Gunong Brinchang, the site of the picnic.

On Easter Sunday ASP Ismail informed his senior officers of the missing American. On the following morning when Thompson had not turned up, further uniformed personnel were despatched to assist as well as specialist officers from the CID (Criminal Investigation Department) to check out the possibility of kidnapping.

By Tuesday morning trained jungle squads of five platoons from the PFF (Police Field Force) were in the Cameron Highlands. Wearing jungle-green uniforms they were often mistakenly described as being soldiers. They thoroughly searched not only throughout the entire area from Ringlet to Blue Valley but also along trails through the adjacent jungle into Perak and the lowlands.

But after a last effort by volunteers on the next Sunday any hope of finding Thompson alive had faded, his friends left and except for occasional small parties the civilian effort ceased. It is wrongly said that the official police search was called off after ten days, but this is not so. Although the jungle squads returned to their base just outside Ipoh by 4 April, field operations continued well after the visiting newsmen departed.

Extensive Police investigations went on until the first week of June. In his 28-page Diary ASP Ismail's last personal inspection was of the remains of a possibly European male found in the jungle lowlands further south. During this time experienced detective officers had carried out intensive inquires not only in the Cameron Highlands not only in Ipoh and the surrounding area but also from Penang to Singapore.

Nor were the forests neglected after the Police Field Force returned to their base. Just after they left jungle bashing Jubah Teams of Orang Asli trackers from Special Branch arrived "to obtain any information from the aboriginals". They carried out separate sweeps for over a fortnight, while yet more trained uniformed aboriginals joined in.

The CIA seems to have been as much in the dark as anyone else and it has been reasonably assumed that they received an early report from Mr Richard Noone. At the suggestion from some one in the American Embassy, he had been hired by Thompson's business, The Thai Silk Company, to make enquiries among the Orang Asli.

Mr Noone was attached to SEATO in Bangkok as an intelligence expert and had extensive knowledge of the Cameron Highlands both from before the War and during the Emergency. He was well known to the Malaysian Authorities and managed to 'borrow' two troops of a specialist aboriginal unit, the Senoi Pra'ak to carry out further sweeps, which overlapped with the Jubah teams. In the end Noone decided that the earlier search by the PFF "had been very thorough indeed".

At this time an unlikely trio of Americans unexpectedly presented themselves - a uniformed army officer, a beautiful actress and a naturalised Dutchman, who did all the talking. This star turn was a 55 year-old 'telepathy' expert Peter

Hurkos accompanied by his personal secretary and later wife, Miss Stephanie Farb whose clerical skills had been honed as a "former television and film star". The American army officer escorting them was Lt. Horgan, General Black's aide, whose expenses were paid by Hurkos.

This rather unusual private investigator from Los Angles had acquired his unique skills when he fell off a stepladder and hurt his head. Hired by the Thompson family, his spiel was that Thompson had been drugged unconscious and abducted. Thrown in the back of an army truck, he was carted out of town to a waiting aircraft and flown off to Cambodia. When told that there was no landing strip, the story was amended to include an equally impossible boat ride to a neighbouring state for the plane trip.

After spending less than 24 hours in the hills, Hurkos and his troupe departed back to Bangkok where he spent a month trying to organise a rescue foray into Cambodia. Lt. Horgan's report of the entire visit glossed over the fact that the two investigators Noone and Hurkos met briefly in the jungle. Although the men were hired respectively by Thompson's family and his business, they ignored each other in Bangkok.

The fact that none of the expert jungle police and aboriginal trackers found a trace of Thompson in the jungle spawned a whole school of legends. Hurkos was the prime mover who supplied the initial impetus to conspirate stories. However, even before his tale of Cambodian captivity, Eastern mystics were on the scene.

In the first week Mr Shee Voon Chin of Excel Provision Tanah Rata hired a local temple medium whose day job was a house painter. He was soon to be followed by swarms of several varieties of mystic psychics who swept through the jungle. To borrow from a popular song, the hills were alive with the sound of incantations, gongs, and firecrackers to ward off evil spirits.

ASP Ismail logged in 118 of these gentry, with almost a hundred being Malay bomohs, and his list was incomplete. They sprang up all the way from Singapore to Thailand and some even posted in their predications. Mystics of many races continued their occult oracles and to this day visits are still received predictably from Bangkok.

And so it went on with the mediums tripping over one another until ASP Ismail gave up listing them. A final statement was taken on 13 July from an electrician who came from Sarawak inspired by his niece who was a temple medium in Singapore. He hired a local taxi driver Ng Kiew Chai as a guide expecting to be gone for only three hours. On the third day the electrician was half carried out of the jungle by a rescue party. By that time the police had also found the driver about five miles from Bharat Tea Estate, which is to the south between Tanah Rata and Ringlet. He returned to his work and forty years later is still driving a taxi, well known on the local scene as "Taxi Thompson".

Psychics of every variety, both locally and elsewhere, used their several aids of prayer and incantations, complete with incense and alter, as well as astrological charts, crystal balls and dousing sticks. Even the sacrifice of a white rooster was of little avail while some had seen some sort of sign when Thompson's pet dog also disappeared on the first anniversary of its master's loss.

About all that had not been consulted were the Prophecies of Nostradamus. The best that can be said is that some of the innumerable visions had certain

Completely unknown to the press, the Police cast a very fine net indeed. Consideration was given to the possibility of business problems, robbery, kidnapping or even murder, and ever increasing rewards were offered. Detective Inspectors retraced the arrival route of Jim Thompson and checked out all rumours.

Woman Police Inspector Tan Ai Bee of the Special Branch, ostensibly assigned to supply female support to the ladies at Moonlight, carried out a closer probe of the domestic affairs there.

A possible Bangkok business motive was imputed and, of course, there was the vision of the American psychic-detective that conjured up either Chinese or Thai underground movements. Reports of Thai visitors were checked out, as were sightings of elderly European men in far-separated places. Secret Societies specialists eliminated the possibility of a gangster kidnap.

The only two local triads, the Wah Kee and the Siew Pat Hong, were engaged in a violent turf war and either would have been happy to expose the other. There is absolutely no evidence of abduction by any group, yet after all this effort no trace of Thompson was found and suicide or murder were ruled out.

Doubters have said that admittedly inconclusive police results had been a deliberate cover-up for political reasons. But Thomson's elder brother, Harry and his sister Mrs Douglas showed up in May, two months after their brother went missing and after an interview in the Fatimah Hospital Ipoh were satisfied with the investigations.

Warren sums up his extensive research by giving some five or six possible conclusions as to what happened. But conspiracy theorists developed more than these did. Rumour mills, especially in Bangkok, fuelled by speculation and cryptic psychic pronouncements produced a plethora of possibilities and impossibilities.

Noone found no clues but had confidence in the Police Field Force's thorough search following in their tracks and beyond. His conclusion that Thompson "is not in jungle surrounding Moonlight Bungalow" has since been twisted out of context.

It is worth noting that because of the time factor it is unlikely that Thompson could have gone very far afield before the search began for him. After all on the Saturday morning he and Dr Ling had attempted a short walk downhill to the Golf Course that can be seen from Moonlight bungalow. The country was so broken and overgrown that it took several hours.

Mr Noone also observed "Mr Thompson was not in the jungle, dead or alive, as he would certainly have been found by now". Conspiracy believers, pounce on this to support either an abduction or a flight to foreign parts. There was absolutely no possibility that either of these happened.

This is not an unsupported opinion because comprehensive police investigations have ruled out that he ever left the hills.

The possibilities have been narrowed until finally there remained only that Thompson had accidentally met his death and his remains lay undetected somewhere in the Cameron Highlands. But this still leaves unanswered the question: "Whatever happened to Jim Thompson?"

#### The Reconstruction

Thompson's movements from Bangkok to Cameron Highlands were thoroughly checked out and nothing suspicious was found. Some say that a hurried flight from Bangkok was indicated because his exit permit was not in order, yet both his Penang hotel and airline tickets to and back from Malaysia had been booked ten days in advance.

For their journey to the Highlands Thompson and Connie hired taxis, which involved switching vehicles in the usual manner at Tapah.

Quite early on this conjured up an aborted kidnap attempt that was blown up out of all proportion. But, unknown to the speculators, Cameron Highlands' only police detective was there on leave and witnessed the quite innocent transfer. No sinister strangers were noted lurking in the background, either along the way or in the highlands.

There were a number of reports of elderly Europeans sighted in various parts of the Cameron Highlands, including the well-publicised account of Fatimah at the nearby Lutheran bungalow. All were checked out and discounted except for the reports from two servants at the OMF that provided positions from which search parties scoured the area.

#### Thompson's Last Day

With these points in mind it is possible to reliably reconstruct Thompson's Last Day of which the Easter service and picnic are established facts. At about 3.30 in the afternoon while his friends were in their rooms, Thompson left Moonlight and wearing a short sleeved white shirt and grey trousers followed the road to visit the 'hornet's clearing' where the Strawberry Park Resort now is. He had gone back there the previous year.

At about quarter past four one of the servants at the OMF saw him on the hillside opposite that bungalow in a clearing, which is now a car park of the Resort.

About half an hour later her colleague on the way to work passed him looking tired sitting on a boulder at the side of the road from the Golf Course. Due to the confusing winding and bends in the road apparently he had gone past the turnoff to Moonlight. This sighting did not appear in the press and has been virtually overlooked.

I have measured by my car's odometer all the distances involved and would note that in every account they are overstated, often being doubled. All the roads in the area at that time were much narrower and have since been widened while some were mere lanes overgrown with jungle. This was particularly so for the present road leading to the resort which at the time was a jeep track choked with secondary growth.

The whole distance by winding roads from Moonlight bungalow to the boulder is about 2.6 kilometres, say around a mile and a half, or allowing for a walkabout around the clearing less than two miles. This is around three kilometres, which is an easy hour's walking time for someone like Thompson, about the length of time from when he was heard leaving Moongate until seen sitting at the roadside.

On Easter Sunday when Thompson failed to return home it was first thought that he might have become lost in the jungle or along the byways around Moonlight. Then came the possibility of him lying unnoticed because of a fall in the bush or a hit-and-run accident. This last possibility was looked into but discarded after a thorough search failed to find the injured man in the shrubbery lining the roads.

The official view was that Thompson had been fatally injured in some accident and his remains lay obscured in the underbrush. Warren and others did not favour this theory because no bones had been uncovered over the years.

However, at the time a story soon circulated that in fact a lorry had struck Thompson on the road where he had last been seen but this was not reported to the police. It was said that the appalled driver panicked and loaded the body into the back of his vehicle. He carried it further away to be buried on the outskirts of a vegetable patch.

An alternative story says the culprit was driving a timber lorry and the body was disposed of later at a sawmill. Shades of the Texas Chain Saw Murders.

For those who believe in psychic phenomena, this possibility fits many of the visions seen by the mystics, including Hurkos who saw an unconscious body lifted into an army truck.

It explains such anomalies as the tracker dog's failure in the hunt because when it arrived at the scene there was no scent trail to follow. Indeed, this does not contradict Noone's conclusion that "I therefore cannot believe that he did in fact enter the jungle"

Are These the Bones?

Thompson wasn't lost in the jungle; his body had been carried elsewhere and was hidden in the ground.

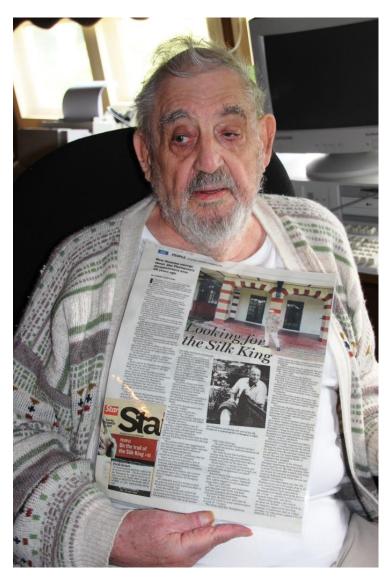
Although later writers declaimed that no one else had disappeared so completely in the Cameron Highlands this is not so - there were at least two other Europeans whose bodies were never found, while stories about ed about other identifiable remains that were recovered.

Searching for corroboration of these rural legends, in 2007 I went to the Government Clinic in Tanah Rata and spoke to the District Health Officer, Dr Chong Chee Keong. He casually mentioned that some skeletal straps, for which there was no skull, had been left abandoned in the old morturery.

Unreported in the press, in 1985 some Orang Asli found some bones uncovered from a shallow grave at the edge of a vegetable patch off the main road. The police collected the fragments but no connection was made with the disappearance of Thompson, as these were found further north from Brinchang and almost twenty years after the event.

Dr Chong readily agreed to my suggestion that we have a look at them. Within a cardboard box were six black plastic bags that opened to reveal a number of yellowed bone fragments. These were laid out and I took some pictures. As I looked down I said to myself "Are they all that is left of Jim Thompson?"

The photos below were taken by Lew Toulmin during the two visits to Captain Rivers' house, with permission from him.



Capt. Rivers in November 2013 in his study, with clipping on "Looking for the Silk King."



2010 Clipping with focus on Capt. Rivers's theory of the disappearance. (Photo taken at the Strawberry Park Resort.)



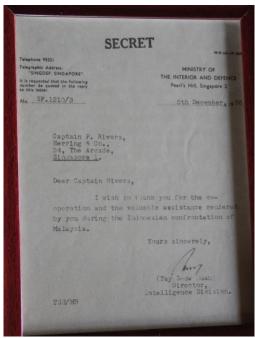
Clipping re Capt. Rivers presentation on the "bones of Jim Thompson" in 2010.



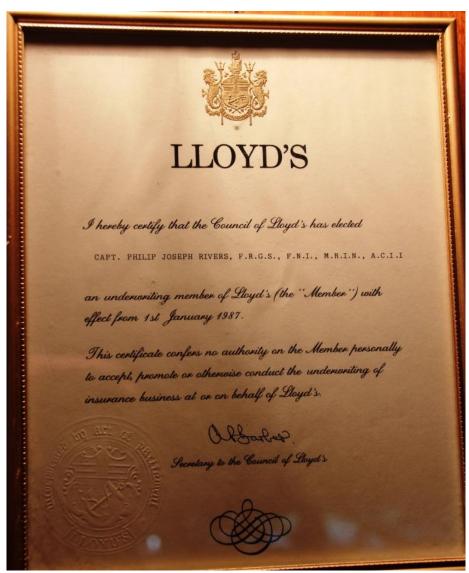
Captain Rivers in earlier days.



The "million dollar view" from the back porch of Captain Rivers. This is what the Cameron Highlands used to look like, before developers.



1966 Letter to Capt. Rivers thanking him for his services to Malaysia during the confrontation with Indonesia



Letter from Lloyd's of London certifying Capt. Rivers as an underwriting member.



Focus topic of interview: The current police knowledge of and files on JT

Name of interviewee: Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Hashadid Hamid,

**Brinchang, Cameron Highlands** 

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: None

Date interviewed: 26 Nov 2013

Approximate duration of interview: 15 minutes

Location of interview: Brinchang regional Police HQ, downtown on east side of main road,

Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Describe bias if other than "No"

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) a very senior police officer; was not present in the region in 1967

Abbreviations: This respondent: HH; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est. age of interviewee: about 58

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. [I described the JT case and my interest in it, stating that I was a journalist and investigator. HH asked if there was a ransom paid for JT. I explained that no, there was no ransom, just a simple and famous disappearance.]
- 2. HH stated that he had not heard of this case.
- 3. HH stated that the Malaysian police only keep files on missing person cases for about 10-15 years. There are no files here at Brinchang on the JT case.
- 4. In 1967 there was only one police station in the area, and that was at Tahah Rata, not at Bringchang. Tanah Rata was then the Police District office. There may possibly be information there on the JT case. I should go there and ask.
- 5. The Brinchang Police HQ has no old or new topo maps of the area that they can share or provide.
- 6. The Brinchang Police HQ has no aerial photos of the area, either current or old, that they can share or provide.
- 7. If I locate the "bones of Jim Thompson" I should provide the bones to him.
- 8. [My visit seemed to create quite a sensation with the ASP's subordinate staff, some of whom sat in on the interview. None of them had heard of the JT case, either. They requested that a photo be taken of them with me in the Police HQ. The picture is presented below.]



Lew Toulmin (second from right) and staff of the Brinchang Regional Police HQ, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia, November 2013.



Focus topic of interview: The current police knowledge of and files on JT

Name of interviewee: Police Officer Khalid (no first name given), town Police Station, Main Road, Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: None

Date interviewed: 27 Nov 2013

Approximate duration of interview: 20 minutes

Describe bias if other than "No"

Location of interview: Tanah Rata Police station, just north of downtown, on west of main road, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Interviewed by phone mail in-person_x_ or email
Interview done by: _Lew Toulmin andx
Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)
Interview conducted in: English xSpanish Other (describe)
Quality of language communication: Poor_x_ Fair Good Excellent
Contact info for this interviewee: Tanah Rata Police station (shown in the picture below)
Bias observed in this interviewee: No: _x Yes Possible

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Police Officer, was not born in 1967

Abbreviations: This respondent: POK; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est. age of interviewee: about 25

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. [I described the JT case and my interest in it, stating that I was a journalist and investigator. POK gave me his last name and rank of Police Officer, but not his first name.]
- 2. POK stated that he had not heard of this case. He asked three other staff nearby and they had not heard of it either. These staff started giggling, and laughed for quite a while, at the idea of pursuing such an old case.
- 3. POK stated that the Malaysian police only keep files on missing person cases for 20 years. There are no files here at Tanah Rata on the JT case. He stated that such old files were burned after 20 years of no action. [Note that all such statements by officials, especially untrained, junior ones, in developing countries may be true, but may not be, given the importance of the case at the time.]
- 4. POK inquired if there was a suspect in the case. I stated that no, there was no clear suspect.
- 5. POK and a female office assistant became interested in the case, and I suggested they look it up on the Internet. They did on the Station computers, and found quite a bit of material, none of which they had heard about. I said that there would likely be a lot of interest and visitors in 2017, on the 50th anniversary of the case, and they might want to study up.
- 6. POK began inquiring about where I was and what I was doing in 1967 (!). I told him that I was in high school in the USA at that time, and he seemed to lose interest in nailing me as a suspect.
- 7. I asked if there were any caves in the area, in which tourists got lost or fell into. POK stated that there were no caves in the CH area.



The Tanah Rata Police Station, November 2013 #end#



**Focus topic of interview**: The "bones of Jim Thompson"

Name of interviewee: Sister Khuchariv (sic?) first name not obtained, assistant to the District Medical Officer, Tana Ratah

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: None

Date interviewed: 26 Nov 2013

Describe bias if other than "No"

Approximate duration of interview: 15 minutes

Location of interview: Tana Ratah District Medical Office, downtown on west side of main road, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Interviewed by phone mail in-person_x_ or email
Interview done by: _Lew Toulmin andx
Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)
Interview conducted in: English xSpanish Other (describe)
Quality of language communication: Poor Fair Goodx_Excellent
Contact info for this interviewee: District Medical Office, Tanah Rata, 017-767-0727
Bias observed in this interviewee: No: _x Yes Possible

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: assistant to District Medical Officer

Abbreviations: This respondent: SK; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est. age of interviewee: about 35

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. SK stated that Dr. Sebastian Thevaraja is not the District Medical Officer (DMO), as I have been told.
- 2. Dr. Muchdrafiq (sic?) is the DMO and the head of the clinic, and I can come by and see him at 0900 tomorrow.
- 3. SK is the head assistant to the DMO.
- 4. Dr. Sebastian is on marriage leave and is 150 km away. He is not contactable.
- 5. The other local nurses are not from this area and never hear of JT.
- 6. SK has heard of the case and heard of the "bones of Jim Thompson" or at least the bones that were present in the clinic, but prefers that I hear the story tomorrow from the DMO.



**Focus topic of interview**: The "bones of Jim Thompson" Name of interviewee: Dr. Mohammad Rafiq, District Medical Officer, Tanah Rata Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: None Date interviewed: 29 Nov 2013 Approximate duration of interview: 15 minutes Location of interview: Tana Ratah District Medical Office, downtown on main road, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia Interviewed by phone \_\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_ Interview done by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_ Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu) Interview conducted in: English x\_\_\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_x\_Excellent\_\_\_\_ Contact info for this interviewee: District Medical Office, Tana Ratah, 017-767-0727 (Note: Dr. Sebastian Thevaraja is not the District Med Officer nor head of the clinic, but he does work there, according to local nurses. Dr. Sebastian is on marriage leave and is 150 km away.)

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_x\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_\_

Describe bias if other than "No"

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: District Medical Officer

Abbreviations: This respondent: MR; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est. age of interviewee: about 45

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. MR began by asking me what was my interest in the "bones of Jim Thompson." I explained that I just want to get the facts, and was not interested in anything except provable facts and the science of the case. He then asked what I would do with the bones if I had them. I said I only wanted to have the bones examined to see if they were human and appeared to be those of a male of European descent, then perhaps have them DNA tested if feasible, and not to keep the bones myself, but just get the test results. This answer seemed to satisfy him, and he began to answer questions.
- 2. MR stated that he was the District Medical Officer here in Tana Ratah, and had held this office for two months.
- 3. MR had never seen the bones in question.
- 4. MR understood from his nursing staff, that the District Medical Office used to be a small hospital. There were a set of bones kept in this hospital. These bones were found by the orang asli about 40 years previously.
- 5. A few years ago, in 2005, a new, larger hospital was built, and this building became only the District Medical Office.
- 6. During the shifting of equipment, packing, transferring of records, and the move to the new hospital, the set of bones disappeared.
- 7. There is no photo of the bones here.
- 8. The staff here now are all new, and none were here in 2005.
- 9. No one has any idea of where the bones are now.
- 10. He does not know where the bones were found.
- 11. He knows of no connection between the bones and Jim Thompson.
- 12. He cannot describe the bones.
- 13. [It is not clear from this how MR came to know that there were bones here at one point, since all his staff were new and he had only been here two months. But it was clear from what he said that this was a dead end. MR appeared to be quite truthful. The "bones of Jim Thompson" are thus not "in a safe place" "at the District Medical Office," as stated by Captain Philip Rivers.]



**Focus topic of interview**: Location and status of the "bones of Jim Thompson" Name of interviewee: Dr. Cheam May Choo Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none Date interviewed: 25 Nov 2013 Approximate duration of interview: 5 minutes Location of interview: Dr. Choo's clinic, Brinchang, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia Interviewed by phone \_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_ Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_\_\_ Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu) Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_x\_ Excellent\_\_\_\_ Contact info for this interviewee: Clinic of Dr. Choo and Dr. Liau Tai Leong, Brinchang, Cameron Highlands [see photo below] Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_\_x\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_ Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: ex-wife of former District Medical Officer in the CH.

Abbreviations: This respondent: CMC; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est age of interviewee: 50 in 2013

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. CMC was formerly the wife of the CH District Medical Officer, Dr. Chong Chee Khong (CCK).
- 2. CCK did mention to CMC that CCK had seen some bones and had them in his possession at the District Medical Clinic in Tana Ratah. This mention was some years ago, and CMC does not remember the details. CCK transferred to Putra Jaya in 2010, so this bone possession was prior to that. She does not think there was ever any proof that the bones were linked in any way to JT, and in fact thinks the bones "were not Jim Thompson's."
- 3. CMC suggests I contact CCK directly regarding this matter, using email or phone. She provided me with contact info.
- 4. CCK now lives in Putra Jaya, near Kuala Lumpur, and is very busy but may return a call.
- 5. CMC has no other information.



#end#



Focus topic of interview: Location and status of the "bones of Jim Thompson" Name of interviewee: Dr. Chong Chee Khong (or Cheong) Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none Date interviewed: 26 Nov 2013 Approximate duration of interview: 10 minutes Location of interview: phone call from Cameron Highlands, Malaysia, apparently to Putra Jaya, Malaysia Interviewed by phone \_x\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_\_ or email\_\_ Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_ Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu) Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_x\_Excellent\_\_\_\_ Contact info for this interviewee: Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_\_x\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_ Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Well-regarded doctor, was the District Medical Officer in Tana Ratah for many years in the CH.

Abbreviations: This respondent: CCK; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Age of interviewee: unknown

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. CCK was formerly the District Medical Officer (DMO) in Tana Ratah.
- 2. He had some bones in his possession at the Office, which were found in about the mid-1990s by a farmer.
- 3. Captain Phillip Rivers heard about the bones and wanted to do DNA and other tests on the bones.
- 4. CCK has no idea where the bones are now.
- 5. CCK left Tana Ratah about 5-6 years ago.
- 6. He did not take the bones with him; they stayed at the DMO's office.
- 7. The bones were found in the Kampong Tringkap or Kampong Raja area. CCK does not know the circumstances of their being found, except that a farmer found them.
- 8. The bones were observed but not really examined by CCK. The bones apparently comprised a partial skeleton, with a fair number of bones of the body [apparently not the skull] present. A partial skeleton could have been assembled from the bones present.
- 9. CCK is not sure of the number of bones.
- 10. The bones were of a human or primate; he is not sure they were human.
- 11. CCK has no photos of the bones.
- 12. There is no connection that CCK is aware of to the Thompson case, as far as he could tell.
- 13. CCK stated that "it is rather far-fetched" to "think that these are the Thompson bones."
- 14. CCK noted that many people died and were buried in casual graves in the CH over the years.
- 15. CCK suggested I contact the current District Medical Officer in Tana Ratah.



Focus topic of interview: Search techniques and findings in 1967
Name of interviewee: Gerard Richard and Jay
Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none
Date interviewed: 24 Nov 2013
Approximate duration of interview: 120 minutes
Location of interview: at the Time Tunnel, The Local Museum, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; in the Richards' Land Rover, at lunch at the Cameron Highlands Resort
Interviewed by phone _ mail in-person_x_ or email
Interview conducted by: _Lew Toulmin andx
Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)
Interview conducted in: English _x_Spanish Other (describe)
Quality of language communication: Poor Fair Good Excellentx
Contact info for this interviewee:
Bias observed in this interviewee: No:x_ Yes Possible
Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Gerard and Jay are the owner/managers of the Cameron Secrets travel agency and tour company. They are enthusiastically interested in the JT case. Jay is a former policewoman in the Cameron Highlands, who declined to give her last name, which she said was "too long to bother with." She is the wife of Gerard.

Abbreviations: Gerard and Jay: G&J; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Cameron Highlands: CH; Moonlight Bungalow: MB

Est. age of interviewees: about 38 in 2013

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. G&J are the owner/managers of the Cameron Secrets tour and travel agency. They are quite fascinated by the JT case. Their tours generally focus on nature walks and hiking, and they have extensive knowledge of the CH area. Jay was formerly a police officer in the CH but found it rather dull after Kuala Lumpur. She left the force well before retirement age. Neither respondent was old enough to be alive at the time of the JT disappearance. They occasionally do JT-oriented tours.
- 2. Captain Phillip Rivers should be interviewed. He states that he has found the bones of JT, and gave a presentation on this several years ago.
- 3. The local OCPD should be interviewed. [Officer Commanding the Police District]. His "investigative papers" should be examined.
- 4. There are multiple last known points (LKPs) for sighting JT on the disappearance day. First is the All Souls Church in Tana Ratah, where JT attended a church service from about 11 am to noon. [This church still exists; photos are presented below.]
- 5. The second LKP is at the Moonlight Bungalow, at about 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, although these times are disputed. That is when Fatima, a kitchen maid, now deceased, was at the Lutheran Mission Bungalow and looked up and saw, many yards away, Jim Thompson at the Moonlight Bungalow.
- 6. Battalion 20, the Senao Prang, of the Malay Field Force was used in the search for JT.
- 7. The local orang asli are well known to the respondents, and the orang are gentle people who are very unlikely to have attacked and killed JT. [One of the tours of the Cameron Secrets tour company was to a local orang asli village.]
- 8. The orang asli do not use pits to catch large game, they use small snares to catch rabbits and other small game.
- 9. In many years of hiking in the CH, the respondents have never seen any large game pits or heard of anyone falling into one.
- 10. By contrast, many foreigners and even locals often get lost on the local trails. These "trails" although numbered on tourist maps, are in fact very confusing, unmarked, hard to

- follow in the jungle, and often end in dead ends. Numerous SAR and disappearance incidents have occurred over the years, with missing hikers.
- 11. The respondents are not aware of any caves in the area, and have never heard of anyone crawling into a cave and disappearing that way. The local geology does not lend itself to the formation of caves.
- 12. One local theory is that the taxi driver now known as "Jim Thompson" was somehow leading people away from the real search area, when he went looking for real JT, trying to get the reward, and ended up lost himself, and only emerged many kilometers south of the search area some days later.
- 13. The jungle in the CH is quite dense and hard to search. The respondents think that CAPT Mohammad is likely mistaken when he says that the jungle was open and easy to search. He is perhaps confusing the triple canopy jungle of the coast, which is quite open on the ground below all the dense canopy, with the dense CH jungle, where a single low canopy allows a lot of jungle growth at the ground level. The respondents agree that the jungle has likely changed somewhat since 1967 and there are now more areas open to the sky, which allow for very dense bushy growth on the ground. This bushy growth is extremely difficult to search.
- 14. Gerard knows Ray De Souza, author of the book "Solved" about the JT case.
- 15. [On Nov. 28, 2013, in a subsequent short exchange in person in Tana Ratah, Gerard stated that:] Colonial types in the 1960s, especially guests, would not exit through the kitchen of a house they were staying in. They would go out the official front door. They would not feel right about entering the servant's spaces, including the kitchen. Therefore if JT wanted to exit the MB on the afternoon of the disappearance, he would very likely have exited the front of the house. Since Dr. and Mrs. Ling heard on the afternoon of the disappearance some footsteps outside their window, and thought those were JT's footsteps, this would likely mean that JT was walking around the side of the house toward the "kitchen trail," not toward the road. Therefore it seems likely that the JT exit from the MB was via the kitchen trail, not the road.
- 16. [In an article by Michael Cheang of Star2 ("Re-living the day Jim Thompson went missing") <a href="mailto:STAR2@THESTAR.COM.MY">STAR2@THESTAR.COM.MY</a>, 26 March 2012), Gerard Richard stated (p.5) that "All the bungalows around the CH have little shortcuts like these leading through the jungle to the town; so any one of these could have been the path that Thompson used that day."]



In the Time Tunnel Museum, north of Brinchang, Cameron Highlands.

From left: Gerard Richard, photo of Jim Thompson in uniform,

See Kok Shan (the proprietor of the Museum), and ex-local police officer Jay \_\_\_\_\_\_.



Focus topic of interview: various possible causes of the disappearance of JT

Name of interviewee: Madi (does not use any other name), naturalist at the Cameron Highlands Resort

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none

Date interviewed: 26 Nov 2013

Approximate duration of interview: 4 hours over two days

Location of interview: Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; at the Cameron Highlands Resort, and on the "JT Mystery Trail"

Interviewed by phone \_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_

Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_\_

Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)

Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_x\_Excellent\_\_\_

Contact info for this interviewee:

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_x\_

Describe bias if other than "No": Madi is a fine fellow, very charming and positive. Re the JT search, he seems to believe in many or most of the conspiracy theories re JT's disappearance. Almost all the information presented below is therefore hearsay, rather than facts observed by the respondent. But this information is presented here to give a flavor of the many different theories and stories that have arisen re JT over the years.

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Naturalist and guide at the Cameron Highlands Resort (the most exclusive and one of the largest resorts in the CH)

Abbreviations: don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH; Communist Terrorists: CH

Year of birth of interviewee: was 13 in 1967, hence 59 in 2013

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. Madi was 13 in 1967. His father was part of the British Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) unit in the area, and their family lived in a Nissan [Quonset] hut on the RAMC base.
- 2. A day or two after the JT disappearance, troops forced open the door of the Nissan hut, and demanded to search the entire hut for JT. Madi states he was there and observed this action.
- 3. Re the "bones of JT," Captain Phillip Rivers brought the box of bones to Dr. Chung and pestered the doctor to test the bones. Chung didn't want to. [This contradicts the stories of Rivers and of the doctor.] Dr. Chung is a good friend of mine [Madi].
- 4. I [Madi] am writing a book on the JT disappearance, and hope it will make money.
- 5. The roads to the Lutheran Bungalow and MB were paved in 1967.
- 6. Below and to the east of the MB is another bungalow, the "A4" bungalow, which has this sign in front of it. This bungalow is just off the road to the Lutheran Bungalow (LB). Near where the A4 driveway hits the road to the LB, is where a friend of mine [Madi] was standing in 1967, cutting banana leaves, on the day of the JT disappearance. My friend saw JT beside the road. JT had apparently come down to this location by the trail leading downhill behind the MB, not via the main road down from the MB. A car came along near the A4 bungalow, and JT voluntarily got into the car with several very large soldiers, who had already been in the car. The car drove off and JT was never seen again. There was a steep trail leading to near this location from the MB, which is up the hill from here.
- 7. Another friend of mine [Madi] saw a convoy of vehicles move from the junction of the road leading up to the MB, and go fast down the main road, then across the main road

[between Tanah Rata and Brinchang]. The convoy went to the east side of the road, over near where the Town Council building is now at the top of a hill, and stopped. Some of the people in the convoy were picked up by US or British helicopters and taken away. JT was among these people. This friend of mine is now dead, but was a shop assistant at the Mayflower Steamboat restaurant. [Madi clearly meant that this event took place on the day of the disappearance (Sunday) or perhaps Monday or Tuesday, but was not clear.]

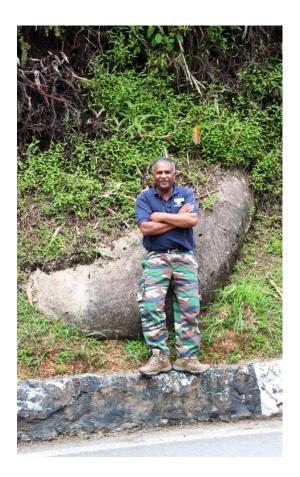
- 8. In the 1970s and 1980s, lots of backpackers went missing in the hills here, and soldiers were needed to go in after them.
- 9. Everyone in town said that JT was a double agent or smuggler.
- 10. I met JT's cousin from the USA who visited here, but can't recall his name.
- 11. JT was trained in Sri Lanka, and hid in the Himalayas for 10 years. Then he went to Singapore with Dr. Ling and Ellen Ling, who owned the MB.
- 12. Just before JT disappeared, he said "make a fish head curry for me, and I will come back." JT went over to the southern edge of the MB compound, waved to the gardener at the Lutheran Bungalow, then went down the rear trail and around to the location where he was picked up near my friend.
- 13. Another friend of mine, who died at age 87, was a forest ranger near Penang. He saw JT being taken on a cargo plane out of Malaysia, soon after the disappearance in the CH.
- 14. The Thai military was the first to arrive here to search for JT. But they were not allowed in the jungle due to the CTs [Communist Terrorists].
- 15. The orang asli who were involved in the JT SAR are all dead now.
- 16. After the disappearance, the soldiers searched, then a \$10,000 reward was offered, which is worth millions now. That is why Captain Rivers wants to solve the case.
- 17. A monk, a guy from Sabah, and a taxi driver, went up to the MB, soon after the disappearance, then went searching on their own for JT. They got very lost and the driver is now nicknamed "Thompson" or "Jim Thompson."
- 18. This driver had a friend, who was the real driver for JT. This driver was shot by soldiers in 1969, because he was the driver for JT and knew something about the case.
- 19. The Saban guy also disappeared two years later.
- 20. At around that same time, there was a native orang asli woman who was an old flame of JT's, and she disappeared too.
- 21. Two Thai ministers, who were JT's business partners, were murdered.
- 22. Russians came to the CH looking for JT.
- 23. The Thais who came to the CH to look for JT were terrorists.
- 24. An old friend of mine said that JT kept a book, a diary. He was never without it.
- 25. There were only 3 hotels then in the CH. These were the Whitehouse Hotel, the Eastern Hotel, and the Cameron Highlands Hotel. JT had tea at the latter hotel. He also used to visit the Eastern Hotel, now called the Century Pines. This hotel is no good.
- 26. Mr. CC Chuan rented the Eastern Hotel to an international school. We had 3 international schools at the time, the Cheefu School, the Slim School and the Dalait

- School. JT used to visit all three. The parents at the schools were involved in the Vietnam war.
- 27. JT was smuggling gold, antiques and drugs. In the 1950s and 1960s, JT had antiques and drugs outlets in Laos and Vietnam, according to a pilot.
- 28. The reason that JT set up his Thai silk house in Bangkok was to be a front for his drug smuggling in and out of the Golden Triangle.
- 29. I met a man named Andrew here, he was 8 in 1967. He said the day after the JT disappearance, all students in all the international schools in CH were put in trucks with Ghurka guards and driven to Singapore. Andrew's brother was 15 in 1967. He was in KL [Kuala Lumpur, the capital] over Easter. People with cameras there were all taking pictures and filming, saying they hoped to get pictures of JT. The next day, all these people got fliers under their hotel doors, saying that, "If you take movies of JT, we are going to kill you." All the people quietly packed their bags and left.
- 30. The cousin of JT that I met said that JT's wife visited him in Bangkok, and immediately divorced him. She told all her family, "I never want to see JT again. Don't even tell him if I am dead."
- 31. JT had girlfriends, including a Thai woman, a Malay woman, and an Ambassador's wife. I think JT was caught red-handed with one of those women by his wife.
- 32. I have another friend, who is about 50 years old, who is the President of the All Souls Church [in Tanah Rata]. He saw JT at the Church on the morning of the disappearance, Easter Sunday. He also saw two limousines pass through town, and there were never limousines in the CH at that time.
- 33. JT was also homosexual, that is, he was bi-sexual.
- 34. Three months ago I met a guy, who knew JT's girlfriend in Thailand. JT saw her and she noticed he had his passport in his front pocket [of his shirt or jacket]. She said, "Why do you have your passport in your front pocket?" He immediately gave her his passport!
- 35. Suharto, the new ruler of Indonesia, was brought into power by JT and the CIA.
- 36. The Nugan Hand Bank was a CIA bank in Australia in 1973 to 1976. You (Lew T) should Google this bank and learn about it. [I did, and it was a real banking scandal involving money laundering, drug and gun smuggling, and false financial dealings, with apparent CIA connections.] I [Madi] knew an Australian lady who was investigating bank fraud. She was invited to the Nugan Hand bank for a party, and then disappeared!
- 37. Regarding the case of the sister of JT in Pennsylvania who was murdered. It seems possible that her son was on drugs, and he did it. So maybe it is not connected with the JT disappearance.
- 38. JT was last seen in Taiwan with his gay partner.
- 39. If JT was found, the JT Foundation would pay a reward. [This foundation does exist, and runs the JT House in Bangkok.]
- 40. When JT waved to the gardener in the Lutheran Bungalow, this was not a wave. It was a signal. JT would never wave or speak to anyone. He would just walk into a shop and

- buy stuff and not say anything. So he was not the kind of guy to wave to a lowly gardener.
- 41. In 1967 I [Madi] was working in the Lakehouse Resort [south of Tanah Rata, on a lake].
- 42. Three provinces come together here in the CH: Perak, Pahang, and Lantang (the east coast province).
- 43. I [Madi] had a pass to move between provinces from the Ministry of Defense. As late as 1976 we had CTs in the CH. So you needed passes to move around.
- 44. I [Madi] really doubt Captain Rivers' story about JT being hit and killed by a truck. There are several reasons why this makes no sense. First, there were no private lorries [trucks] in the CH at that time, only Army lorries and ambulances. Second, there were very few cars. Third, the idea that someone would drive a body all the way up to a location far north of Brinchang in 1967 is ridiculous. There were only mud tracks north of Brinchang at that period. No real roads went up to Raja Tringkap [sic?], where Rivers says the body was buried. Fourth, farmers and ordinary people didn't have lorries back then. Fifth, no-one drove very fast back in 1967, and it was so quiet, peaceful and little populated that you could always hear one of the very few vehicles coming and get out of the way. Finally, no one talked about "a white guy being hit by a truck" soon after the disappearance. This story only came up around the time of the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, two years ago.
- 45. A prince of Thailand was killed in the 1960s. There may be a connection to the JT disappearance.
- 46. JT's cousin said that JT was taken away to Penang.
- 47. The Moonlight Bungalow was a British Intelligence Center before World War II. All cottages here have escape tunnels leading to the main road. The Japanese built an extra tunnel when they were here. This tunnel led from the MB to the Lutheran Bungalow. Antiques were found there and sold in Ipoh. This tunnel is where the landslide is now. [apparently Madi means the new large road cut now being made from behind the MB, downhill and west to the road to the Lutheran Bungalow. This road will provide a second vehicle route up to the MB.]
- 48. I [Madi] saw tigers twice in Ringlet in the CH. I saw a black leopard once on the "JT Mystery Trail" in the CH Resort.
- 49. I have never heard of a tiger or leopard attack in the CH in my whole life.
- 50. The orang asli don't dig pits to capture prey.
- 51. The orang asli do shoot wild boar with guns. They also hunt pheasant, civit cats, rabbits, etc.
- 52. We do have Sumatran Pit Vipers here, and also Green Pit Vipers.
- 53. But we have no cobras, kraits, Russell Pit Vipers or rattlesnakes.
- 54. We should go to the Brinchang Hotel and the Kowloon Hotel; these may have a good topo map of the CH area. You cannot buy a good topo map around here, there are only poor tourist maps.

- On 27 November 2013 I [Lew Toulmin] rejoined Madi for a talk and a walk on the JT Mystery Trail. Main points made were:
- 55. The boulder on which JT rested and was seen on the day of the disappearance, is about 30 meters from the marker that says 1 kilometer. This marker is on the road leading up from the main road toward the MB and Strawberry Farm Resort. The marker is on the right (uphill) side when heading uphill on the road.
- 56. The Overseas Missionary Fellowship bungalow is about 200 meters beyond the turnoff up to the Strawberry Farm Resort.
- 57. [We drove to the location of the "No A4" bungalow.]
- 58. Madi stated that he knew the woman who was cutting banana leaves for wrapping coconut rice at this location, in order to wrap coconut rice, and saw JT get into a vehicle. He called her "auntie" but cannot remember her real name. She died a few years ago. She saw JT voluntarily get into a car with "big soldiers in uniform" in the car. He was never seen again.
- 59. [Madi took me on the "JT Mystery Trail." This is a jungle trail, unpaved and unmarked, that runs north from the paved road leading to the Lutheran Mission Bungalow. The trail runs along the east side of a small stream, and is just below the Moonlight Bungalow, which is uphill to the east. The Mystery Trail goes about 300-500 meters along the stream, then there is a fork. The Mystery Trail crosses the stream to the west side of the stream, then returns to the paved road, but is further uphill, away from the stream. Thus the total length of the Mystery Trail is about 1 km. The other fork continues uphill beside the stream, and leads to a sacred area (an orang asli burial site) near the top of the hill/mountain. The jungle in the area of the Mystery Trail was single canopy, but fairly tall. There was not thick ground cover, but one could not see items on the ground more than about 3-5 meters away. Photos of the trail are provided below. Walking on the Mystery Trail was not difficult, but there were tricky bits and steep slopes that could easily lead to a twisted ankle or even a broken leg. There were also places where it was not clear where the trail went. The red clay ground did not show through the leaf litter and other debris that covered the trail. Nor did any topsoil. It would seem unlikely that even a skilled tracker could identify whether a person shod in a plain, flat-bottomed leather shoe had passed, if he stuck to the trail.]
- 60. Madi stated that there is no official connection between the Mystery Trail and JT, although Madi does think that JT used that trail to get down from the MB on the day of the disappearance, then loop around to the eat on the paved road, to meet the car with the soldiers in it on the day of the disappearance.
- 61. The Mystery Trail intersects the "kitchen trail" that comes downhill from the MB. This intersection is at right angles. The kitchen trail still exists but is quite overgrown now.

- The kitchen trail led to a "tip" or garbage dump near the stream, but this is not visible now.
- 62. The Mystery Trail had no markers of any kind, although Madi seemed to state several times that it did.
- 63. The Mystery Trail is quite unsuitable for the elderly, feeble, or persons not sure of their footing.
- 64. There was a previous Mystery Trail which started about 50 meters from the start of the current MT, but went downhill, to the Cameron Highlands Resort.
- 65. According to Madi, the roads in this area, leading to all the British bungalows, were all paved in 1967, so that the British mostly military people using the bungalows could all get up and down to the bungalows and would not get stuck. The roads were generally quite narrow though, only one lane.



Madi leaning against the large boulder that JT supposedly sat on and rested and was seen at, on the day of the disappearance. Madi states that when the road was widened, the boulder was moved and the it previously was lower down.



The author on the same JT boulder. Note the thick jungle ground growth uphill from the boulder. It is about 50 meters east of a 1 km marker, on the other side of the road.



Madi points to the spot in the road where his "auntie" stated she saw JT voluntarily get into a car filled with very large soldiers in uniform and left, never to be seen again. This location is on the narrow paved road to the Lutheran Mission Bungalow, and near the "A4" bungalow driveway.

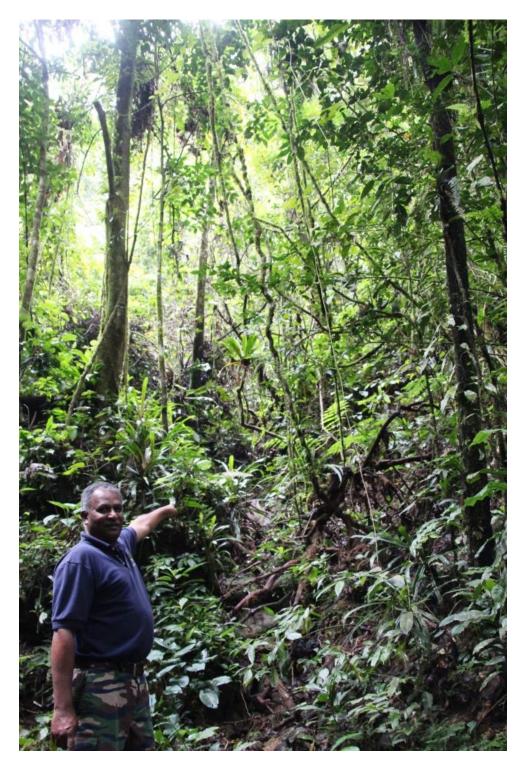
The A4 bungalow is off to the left about 150 meters.



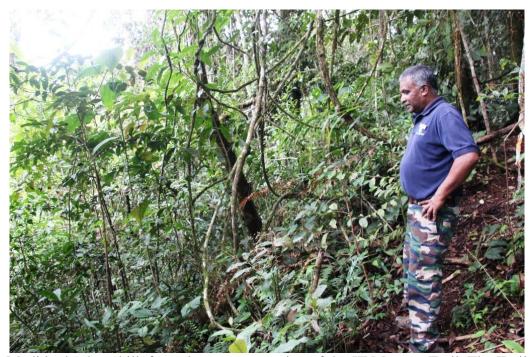
1 km marker near and west of the JT boulder.



Reverse of the km marker



Madi points up the "kitchen trail" which intersects the JT Mystery Trail, and which leads uphill to the Moonlight Bungalow. Note the dense ground cover and the inability to spot any distant landmarks to help with navigation. Note that the little-used "trail" is virtually indistinguishable from the jungle itself, as is the case with many CH trails.



Madi looks downhill, from the western portion of the JT Mystery Trail. The Trail goes up and to right from his feet (the brown leaf litter). If JT went across country uphill, this is the kind of country and ground cover he might have encountered.



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaya Interview Notes

Focus topic of interview: Information at the local Tanah Rata Library on JT.

Name of interviewee: Librarian, City Library, Tanah Rata (name not obtained)

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: None

Date interviewed: 26 Nov 2013

Approximate duration of interview: 15 minutes

Location of interview: Tana Ratah city library, near downtown about 200 meters east of the main road, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Interviewed by phone mail in-person_x_ or email
Interview done by: _Lew Toulmin andx
Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-00 (Vanuatu)
Interview conducted in: English xSpanish Other (describe)
Quality of language communication: Poor_x_ Fair Good Excellent
Contact info for this interviewee: City Library, Tanah Rata
Bias observed in this interviewee: No: _x_ Yes Possible
Describe bias if other than "No"

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: city librarian (only staffer present)

Abbreviations: This respondent: TRL; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est. age of interviewee: about 30

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

- 1. [The main library had very few books, but many magazines.]
- 2. [There were a few photos on a wall downstairs in the library on the JT disappearance, including a photo of JT, of the MB, and other ordinary photos.]
- 3. TRL had heard of the JT case. She stated that the library had no clip file, case files, "morgue" or books on the JT case, with the only exception being a one page spread story in a Malaysian newspaper from 25 Feb 2007. She showed me this and I took photos.



The Tanah Rata municipal library



The majority of library holdings are magazines.



Full page story in Malaysian paper from 2007 on Jim Thompson disappearance. Note the horrendous sketch of JT.



Photo from Malaysian clipping, showing original search efforts and mixed vegetation – open area with thick ground cover, and jungle in the background with low canopy.

Note there is no triple canopy and minimal ground cover in this photo.

From story "Ghaib di Cameron Highlands," *Dimensi Ahad*, 25 Feb 2007, p. 11.



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaya Interview Notes

Focus topic of interview: Search techniques and findings in 1967
Name of interviewee: See Kok Shan
Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none
Date interviewed: 24 Nov 2013
Approximate duration of interview: 30 minutes
Location of interview: Time Tunnel, The Local Museum, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia; UT/MR/F-255, Jalan Burung, 39100 Brinchang, Cameron Highlands
Interviewed by phone _ mail in-person_x_ or email
Interview conducted by: _Lew Toulmin andx
Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)
Interview conducted in: English _x_Spanish Other (describe)
Quality of language communication: Poor Fair Goodx_ Excellent
Contact info for this interviewee:
Bias observed in this interviewee: No:x_ Yes Possible
Describe hias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Owner/manager of the Time Tunnel Museum in north Brinchang, a museum of local history which has a small section on the JT disappearance.

Abbreviations: See Kok Shan: SKS; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR

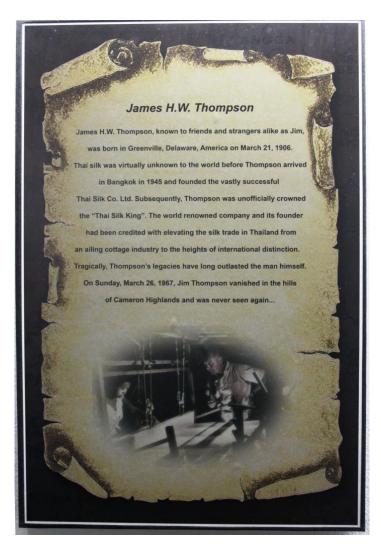
Est. age of interviewee: about 50 in 2013

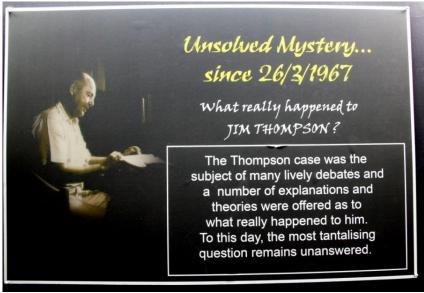
[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

- 1. SKS is the owner/manager of the Time Tunnel museum in the Cameron Highlands. This is the only museum of local history.
- 2. SKS was not involved in the JT search.
- 3. SKS does not have any information on the SAR techniques used, or the cause of the disappearance, other than what is presented in the museum.
- 4. [The "Jim Thompson corner" of the museum contains a picture of JT, a picture of the Moonlight Bungalow, a description of the disappearance, some theories of the disappearance, and no detailed information on the search or SAR techniques. The "corner" takes up about two walls of the Museum, or perhaps 5% of the museum total.]
- 5. [Pictures from the museum related to JT are presented below.]



#end#







The Moonlight Bungalow, year not stated, but cars appear later than 1967

## The strange disappearance of JIM THOMPSON in Cameron Highlands...

Jim Thompson went to Cameron Highlands for a restful Easter weekend with some close friends, They were staying in the Moonlight cottage, which belonged to Dr and Mrs Ling, the cottage stood just at the edge of the jungle.

Characteristically, he had made appointments in Singapore for the following Monday. On the first day in the highlands he and one of his friends went for a walk in the jungle, and soon realised they were lost.

"Don't worry," he said, "follow me along this stream and we'll find our way out." They did. But on the second day, while his friends were napping, Jim Thompson walked off in the jungle alone. He did not return...

### Jim Thompson disappeared without a trace...

It was Dr.Ling who first reported Thompson's failure to return to the cottage. He went to the police at about 7.30 that evening. A group of 30 orang asli trackers was gathered to help in the search, but they came back unsuccessful at about two in the morning. From then on, the hunt for Thompson steadily intensified. The next morning, a group of 120 people took to the hills. Searchers were divided into small groups and went out in shifts working from early morning until midnight. The following day, twice the number of people were despatched to the jungles surrounding Moonlight cottage but Thompson remained missing.

This is a true story as told by Mr. Ong Kim Leong when I first acquired his personal photos collection from his house in April 2008.

Mr. Ong was also involved in the search party at the time Jim Thompson disappeared in the jungles.

Curator of the TIME TUNNEL

44After weeks had gone by, there was still no news of Jim Thompson being found.

One day, this Chinese medium (bomoh) approached me and claimed that he would be able to "speak" to Jim Thompson with the super power he had possessed for many years.

So, we went to the path believed to be taken by Jim Thompson, hoping finding him alive, or at worst dead, so that the medium would be able to claim the reward offered by the American and Thailand government.

First, the medium started praying by offering fruits and lighting joss sticks to the so called "GOD".

After a while, he went into hysterics and started jumping around in the jungle. Off he went..... leaving me by the road side, hoping to see him come out with Jim Thompson in person.

After about twenty minutes or so, I heard the medium screaming and running towards me.

I asked, "why are you screaming, did you see Jim Thompson or did you see a ghost ?" "run quick" said the medium, "I was stung by bees, run quickly" I asked him again while we were running for our lives,

"I thought you have super powers to protect you, why are you afraid of bees?" the medium replied, when the ghost is confronted by bees, the ghost also scared lah!" "



# A Living Legend Vanishes in the Malaysian Jungle

Some of the earliest memories of James Harrison Wilson Thompson were his visits to his grandfather. For hours James Harrison Wilson could tell tales of places half a world away from Wilmington, Delaware. Grandfather Wilson had represented the U.S. Army in Siam, as Thailand then was called. And besides his exotic stories, he had brought back a collection of equally exotic Southeast Asian brocades and porcelains. The young boy was spell-bound.

Jim Thompson grew up to attend Princeton and the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture and became a practicing architect in New York. His family was in the fabric business, and he collected silk swatches as a hobby. Early in World War II he entered the Army. Assigned to the Office of Strategic Services, he served in North Africa, Italy and France, and was sent to Ceylon to plan the parachuting of special forces into the jungles of Thailand. War in the Pacific ended before this operation could be earried out, and he was ordered to Bangkok to serve as an adviser to the American legation. He arrived only two days after the Japanese had capitulated.

By 1946 he had received his discharge, but had decided not to go home. His stateside marriage had ended in divorce. He was attracted by the friendly Tbais. And all around him were the exotic artifacts and fabricshe had seen in his grandfather's living room. Jim Thompson succumbed to the lure of the Orient—and those Thai silks.

The Thai art of silk weaving was an intricate and painstaking one passed down through generations. The silk was handwoven and dyed in cottages all over the country. But younger urban Thais were beginning to scorn the brilliant colors their elders had worn. Jim Thompson saw the possibilities of export sales that would more than make up for declining demand in Thailand.

He returned to New York to display 500 samples of Thai silk to American fashion designers. They encouraged him to produce more, and he returned to Bangkok. With \$700 in capital he began buying Thai silk and sending it in bulk to the United States.

The built to the United States.
The business grew rapidly. In
1949 he organized the Thai Silk
Co. with 33 backers, 30 of them
Thais. Thai silk became famous
around the world. Last year
Thompson's Bangkok firm sold
\$1.5 million worth of silk. It is
supplied by about 4,000 weavers.
The company's employees receive
generous salaries, annual bonuses
and a share of the profits. Jim
Thompson became the best known
American businessman in Southeast Asia, and his success attracted more than 130 competitors
providing work for thousands of

other weavers and workers.
Yet the business side of the enterprise never attracted Jim Thompson as much as its esthetics. He preferred to work with the weavers in developing better color quality, or searching the National Museum for designs that could be block-printed on the lovely, nubby silks.

Nor was silk enough to occupy him. He found seven original Siamese teak houses, had them moved to a Bangkok klong (canal) site and assembled into a museum-like house (following page). He filled it with the art and artifacts he had been collecting. It was a priceless collection of Burmese, Khmer and Siamese Buddha images dating back to the 12th Century, with red and gold Balinese lions, Ming Dynasty rosewood screens, Thai paintings and rare Oriental porcelains. The house attracted so many admirers that Thompson had to open it to visitors two mornings a week. Proceeds from the admission fee —\$1.25 a person—go to a Bangkok school for the blind.

In March he opened a new headquarters, and celebrated his 61st birthday. Tired by a round of activities heavier than usual, he decided to take a holiday.

The Cameron Highlands, rising 5,000 feet above sea level, serve as an excellent resort area, with moderate daytime temperatures and cool nights. It is surrounded by thick jungles that are popular with tiger bunters. Jim Thompson went there for a restful Easter weekend with some close friends. Characteristically, he had made appointments in Singapore for the following Monday.

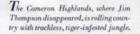
the following Monday.

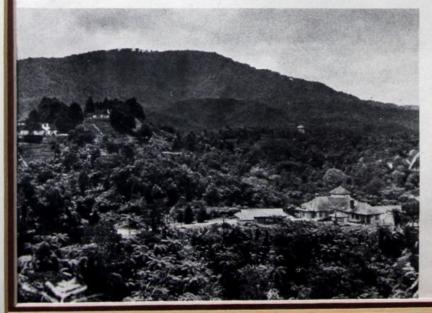
On the first day in the highlands be and one of his friends went for a walk in the jungle, and found they were lost. "Don't worry," he said, "follow me along this stream and we'll get out." They did. But on the second day, while his friends were napping, Jim Thompson walked off in the jungle alone. He did not return.

jungle alone. He did not return.

Malaysian police organized the
largest manhunt ever conducted
in the area. They found no trace
of him. On the theory that he
might have been kidnapped by
handits, a reward was offered.
There were no takers. The search
was called off and hopes for his
recovery waned. But one of his
friends recalled: "A few years
ago he was lost in the Himalayas
for nearly four weeks. He finally
turned up, weak but grinning."
None of Jim Thompson's many
friends in Southeast Asia would
be surprised if he turned up again,
weak but still grinning.

Jim Thompson proudly shows off spools of colored Thui silk for which he made new markets all over the world.





#### **New theories emerge** about Jim Thompson's disappearance over 40 years ago.

By FOONG THIM LENG

T has been 43 years since Thai Silk King Jim Thompson went missing in the jungles of Cameron Highlands but the hills are still buzzing with tales of what could have

Some of the theories on Thompson's dis pearance contain conspiracies fit for a spy movie, while others are too ludicrous to

pensions while others are too ludicrous to believe.

Recently, a mundane story came out of Cameron Highlands that Thompson's disappearance was a simple coul accident.

Strawberry Park Bernell Canada Calent.

Strawberry Park Bernell Calent Strawberry Park Bernell Calent Strawberry Park Bernell Calent Strawberry Park Bernell Calent Strawberry Bernell Calen

before he could gasp out where the body was buried.

Long-time resident of the highlands Capt Philip J. Rivers said it was a credible story. Rivers is a master mariner, lecturer in-nautical studies, and a former insurance fraud investigator. He is also the author of the book, "1427 Vipveges: Fact and Fontosy, published by the Perak Academy.

"In 1967, it was rumoured that a lorry had struck Thompson on the road but this was not reported to the police.
"It was said that the driver in his panic placed the body on to the back of his vehicle, drove off and buried the body in the outskirts of a vegetable patch.
"An alternative story says the culprit was driving a timber lorry and the body was disposed of at a sawmill." he said in an inter-view.

Rivers said he first heard of the intriguing Thompson case when he came to the high-lands over 20 years ago.

The story is so famous that in London alone, there are about 20 bars and resaurants serving Thai dishes and food from Asian countries named after Jim Thompson.

Even the Strawberry Parik Resort in Cameron Highlands has the Jim Thompson hamburger as one of the items on its menu.

Today, tourists are still outside of the said.

he said. Today, tourists are still queuing up daily to visit the Jim Thompson Thai House (Museum) in Rama Road 1, Bangkok, although many do



not know that Cameron Highlands is in Malaysia.

As the story goes. Thompson had come to the highlands with his close Thai friend Mrs Connie Mangskau less than a week after his 61st birthday in 1987 to spend an Easter weekend with friends, DT LG, and Mrs Helen Ling of Singapore at their holiday bungalow, Moonlight Cottage, located above the golf course in Tanah Rata.

He and his friends attended church service on Easter Sunday which fell on March 26 that year and then had a pinnic before returning to the bungalow. Thompson was last seen standing at the verandah. Despite a massive search that followed, he was never found.

search that followed, he was never found.

Tales of his disappearance then spread like wildfire.

Pundits pontificated that
Thompson was a CIA agent embroiled in Thai politics, because of his wartime service in the OSS (Office of Strategie Services).

"He was also labelled a man of mystery, a soldier of fortune and even a spy, becoming a double agent working for the Chinese communists.

Conversely, they whisked him away to settle the war in Vietnam or to revive the silk trade in China.

the war in Vietnam or to revive the suk trace in China.

This wartime service was exaggerated to turn him into a skilled jungle fighter who had been behind Japanese fines in Burna or directed the Thai underground.

That is all nonesnes, said Rivers who has carried out research on Thompson.

Rivers said the case attracted a host of practitioners of the occult arts, including mediums, clairoyants, bomon, soothsayers, astrologers and palmists.

One of them, Peter Hurkos, was a private investigator said to be a telepathy expert from Los Angeles, hired by the Thompson family.

**ACEPOS** POINT OF SALE SYSTEM Jim Thompson pondering over one of his silk designs at a tropical garden in Bangkok in 1965.

Manage Cash, Stock, Customers, Suppliers and Staff at your retail outlets

ACE SOFTWARE SON BERHAD

table a few hours ago.

His spiel was that Thompson had been drugged unconscious, abducted and flown off to Cambodia.

But when he was told that there was no landing strip, the story was amended to include an equally impossible boat ride to a neighbouring state for the plane trip.

Beside Hurkos, a swamp of mediums and mystic psychies swept through the jungle and came out with an assortment of sinister possibilities.



See Kok Shan and Jay \_\_\_\_ outside the Time Tunnel Museum, Brinchang, Cameron Highlands



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview Notes

**Focus topic of interview**: Current jungle hiking conditions in the CH Name of interviewee: Jim and Sandy McCarthy, CH hikers Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: None Date interviewed: 25 Nov 2013 Approximate duration of interview: 45 minutes (in two parts, in my car in the early afternoon, and at a café in the evening) Location of interview: In the car driving from near Brinchang to Tanah Rata, and in a café on the main road in Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia Interviewed by phone \_\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_ Interview undertaken by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ x\_\_\_ Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu) Interview conducted in: English x\_\_\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_ Excellent\_\_x\_\_ Contact info for this interviewee: Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_x\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_\_

Describe bias if other than "No"

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: JM was a PCV in the CH in 1968, soon after the JT disappearance

Abbreviations: This respondent: JM and SM; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH; Peace Corps Volunteer: PCV

Est. age of interviewees: about 64

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

- 1. [I met JM and SM at a store near Brinchang at about 1400. It had been raining heavily. I had stopped at the store to get some snacks since I had had no lunch, and was almost late for a scheduled meeting with the local police. I saw the two hikers, who were soaked and she especially looked very worn out, and were walking very slowly south along the main road. They approached me in my car and asked for a ride into Tanah Rata if I was going that way. I said I was going the other way, into Brinchang, but they looked so tired that I relented and gave them a ride.]
- 2. JM/SM had gotten lost in the hills west of the main north-south road between Tanah Rata and Brinchang. They liked to hike and were experienced hikers.
- 3. JM had come to the CH in 1968 as a US Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) in 1968, not long after the JT disappearance. He saw the MB at the time, and heard about the disappearance and saw the locale of the disappearance.
- 4. He described the jungle at the time as "intimidating." He does not recall if it was triple canopy with open ground underneath. He thinks it was thicker with brush underneath, but is not sure.
- 5. JM/SM went hiking today [Nov 2013] on what they thought was trail 11. It started south of Tanah Rata, climbed steeply uphill, so steep that they had to pull themselves up with vines and roots. It was very hard climbing. The trail was not marked with signs, and was not paved or really marked in any way. They followed the trail or track down the far side of the hill into a boggy, muddy area. They had to clamber around this area. Then they became confused. There was no clear trail leading out of the boggy area. They got lost, felt they recovered the trail, then got lost again. It was raining heavily. They wandered in the jungle for a long time (several hours), over hills, until they reached the fence around an electrical plant. They followed the fence line. They found a side road and took shelter in an abandoned building. They eventually followed the side road down to the main north-south road (Bringchang to Tanah Rata), where they encountered me and got a ride.
- 6. [Note that if the couple started south of Tanah Rata and ended up north of Tanah Rata where I found them, they must have walked for several miles, perhaps 4-6 miles, through

- the jungle and up and down steep hills in that area. This is the area very near to the Moonlight Bunglalow, and would have been the same type of terrain JT encountered if he got lost in the jungle.]
- 7. [We discussed the JT case, which they were both interested in, and concluded that regardless of what happened in 1967, it was quite easy even now to get lost in the CH jungle, on a supposedly marked hiking trail, marked on a tourist map. The standard local tourist map is shown below. It is not to scale and is very poor in terms of relative position of all features. Note that it seems most likely that the McCarthy couple started off on trail 10, then went north through the jungle, ending up north of Tanah Rata but south of Brinchang (these two towns are farther apart than are shown on this map.)]



#end#



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview Notes

Focus topic of interview: OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) Bungalow Name of interviewee: Mrs. Chey (first name not obtained) Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: None Date interviewed: 28 Nov 2013 Approximate duration of interview: 15 minutes Location of interview: OMF Bungalow, NW of Cameron Highlands Resort, north of Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia Interviewed by phone \_\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_x\_ or email\_\_ Interview done by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_ Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu) Interview conducted in: English x\_\_\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_ Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_ Fair \_x\_\_ Good\_\_ Excellent\_\_\_\_ Contact info for this interviewee: Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_x\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_\_ Describe bias if other than "No"

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: manager of OMF Bungalow

Abbreviations: This respondent: MC; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue:

SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est. age of interviewee: about 50

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

#### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

1. [The OMF Bungalow is a religious retreat in the CH.]

- 2. [It is a facility usable by OMF missionaries and other Christian missionaries and workers.]
- 3. Mrs. Chey, the manager, stated that the Mission is rentable via email to Alex at the email above.
- 4. She does not know about the JT case.
- 5. [Examining the map from "the Teacher" it appears that the names for this Bungalow have included OMF, Mr. Leong Sin Nam's bungalow, and the Yee Yong Kok bungalow.]
- 6. [I went to western edge of the back lawn of the OMF Mission. From there the MB was in view, as shown in the photo below.]



Gate of OMF Bungalow, Tanah Rata, CH



Front of the OMF Bungalow



View from the OMF Bungalow looking west toward the Moonlight Bungalow (top left) and the current Sunlight Bungalow (top right).

Note jungle density and height of terrain.



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaya Interview Notes

**Focus topic of attempted interview**: Involvement in the JT case of "Jim Thompson" – a local Chinese taxi driver

Name of interviewee: Ng Kiew Chay, aka "Jim Thompson"

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: may have been Jim Thompson's driver or scheduled driver for the day after the disappearance; reportedly went searching for JT and got lost

Date approached: first on 25 Nov 2013, then four more times over the next several days

Approximate duration of successful interview: zero minutes

Location of non-interview: Tana Ratah main parking lot, beside the main road, Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

Interviewed by phone mail in-person_x_ or email
Interview attempted by: _Lew Toulmin andx
Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)
Interview conducted in: English xSpanish Other (describe)
Quality of language communication: Poor_X_ Fair Good Excellent

Contact info for this interviewee: Tana Ratah main parking lot. Drives for the Ng Mok Lim taxi service: tel. for this service: 6054911234

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_x\_

Describe bias if other than "No": Behavior possibly suspicious, or just sick of journalists

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Taxi driver, of Chinese origin or extraction

Abbreviations: This respondent: NKC; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH

Est. age of interviewee: about 70

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

- 1. [NKC is, according to various news accounts and local residents, a taxi driver of Chinese extraction, living in CH.]
- 2. [NKC according to various accounts (e.g. Madi interview) was a young man living in the Tana Ratah area in 1967. He heard about the reward for finding JT, and with a friend, went looking for JT in the jungle. NKC and friend got lost and ended up many miles south of Tana Ratah, several days later. As a result, he was made fun of and given the rather derogatory nickname of "Jim Thompson," which has stuck to this day.]
- 3. [NKC is reportedly very irascible and will not talk about the case, usually. However, he has occasionally been interviewed and there is at least one news account (Star2 of Malaysia, 26 March 2012) of an interview. Unfortunately, this account sheds no light on the disappearance or the search techniques.]
- 4. [NKC, according to one source, was to have been the driver for the real JT when JT was scheduled to travel to Singapore, the Monday after Easter (and JT disappeared on Easter). This raises the question of whether NKC was JT's usual driver in the CH, and thus whether NML might in fact know something substantive about the case.]
- 5. [NKC, according to a different local source, may have been trying to lead searchers away from the real JT's location during the search period, by diverting search resources away from the correct search area.]
- 6. [I attempted to interview NKC about five times. The first time I asked for a taxi ride north, up to Police HQ in Brinchang. Along the way I chatted about the CH and its attractions, and led the conversation around to the JT case. I asked where he was during the case in 1967. He firmly stated, "Singapore." I asked where the taxi driver nicknamed "Jim Thompson" was now located. He stated, "He was shot in the 1980s, for violating a night curfew he long gone." I stated that I would pay the "Jim Thompson taxi driver" for the true story. He said, "He long gone."
- 7. The second time another taxi driver firmly pointed out NKC as "Jim Thompson." I walked over and said, "Hi Jim, I'm going to talk to you." He immediately yelled, "Go away!"

- 8. On other occasions I approached his cab and indicated I wanted to talk. He became defensive and clearly wanted me to go away ASAP. He indicated in a garbled way, in poor English, and with many dismissive hand gestures, that he didn't know about the case, wasn't nicknamed "Jim Thompson," and didn't want to talk about it. I offered him money to take me on a JT tour, and asked if he was going to drive JT the day after he disappeared. NKC refused to answer.]
- 9. [Local sources say that NKC refuses to join the local taxi association and thus cannot and does not want to stand in the local taxi rank. Instead, he always parks in the same location in downtown Tana Ratah parking lot, to wait for fares.]
- 10. [It seems likely that NKC is just tired of being questioned about a case that was painful to him, and that the other rumors are just many of the thousands of rumors that swirl around the case.]
- 11. [N.B.: I went to the Cameron Highlands to find Jim Thompson. Indisputably, I found Jim Thompson, driving a cab in plain sight. Case solved! QED.]



Ng Mok Lim, a.k.a. "Jim Thompson," in the Tana Ratah parking lot



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview notes

Focus topic of interview: Status of the Katharine Thompson Wood case

Describe bias if other than "No":

Name of interviewee: Trooper First Class Chadwick ("Chad") S. Roberts, Pennsylvania State Police, cold case officer

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none

Date interviewed: 14 April 2014

Approximate duration of interview: 20 minutes

Location of interview: LT in Silver Spring, MD; CSR in Lancaster, PA

Interviewed by phone \_x\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_\_ or email\_\_

Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)

Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_\_

Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_ Excellent\_x\_\_

Contact info for this interviewee:

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_x\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: cold case officer for the Pennsylvania State Police.

Abbreviations: This respondent: CSR; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH; Lew Toulmin: LT; Katharine Thompson Wood: KTW; Pennsylvania: PA; DE: Delaware; law enforcement: LE

Est age of interviewee: unknown.

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

#### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. I sent an email to CSR and he said he would be able to talk to me but not give me the case file. I then left several phone messages trying to reach CSR, but eventually was told he was on training and would return in a week. When I reached him I explained my reason for calling, including a summary of the JT case and the KTW connection, and mentioned that I wrote for the *Montgomery Sentinel* and was active in SAR. I stated I wanted to know the status of the case.
- 2. CSR stated that the Pennsylvania State Police was the agency having jurisdiction [AHJ] and "lead agency," despite confusion sometimes about the address of the incident [PA vs DE], and that he was the cold case officer assigned to this and many other cases. He declined to state how many cold cases, but said "many." He stated that DE LE had no jurisdiction or involvement in the case.
- 3. CSR said he had not read the detailed case file, which was not at his location, but at another barracks, the Avondale Barracks, and he would not be there for some time. At that point he had only a synopsis.
- 4. CSR confirmed that the KWT case was "on-going and open" and had not been solved.
- 5. CSR stated that he was not aware of any FBI, private investigative, or other LE involvement or interest in the case, and not really sure about that. [This conversation took place before I received a FOIA response from the FBI stating that records possibly relating to the KTW case were destroyed by the FBI in 1978.]
- 6. CSR agreed to talk to me more once he was at Avondale Barracks and had the case file, and would be willing to correspond by email. I said I would try but was leaving the country for the South Pacific for quite a while.



#### Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview notes

Focus topic of interview: Status of the Katharine Thompson Wood case, second interview

Name of interviewee: Trooper First Class Chadwick ("Chad") S. Roberts, Pennsylvania State Police, cold case officer

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none
Date interviewed: 23 March 2015
Approximate duration of interview: 90 minutes
Location of interview: PA State Police barracks, Avondale, PA
Interviewed by phone mail_x_ in-person or email
Interview conducted by: _Lew Toulmin andx
Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA)
Interview conducted in: English _x_Spanish Other (describe)
Quality of language communication: Poor Fair Good Excellent_x
Contact info for this interviewee:
Bias observed in this interviewee: No: _x_ Yes Possible

Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: cold case officer for the Pennsylvania State Police.

Abbreviations: This respondent: CSR; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH; Lew Toulmin: LT; Katharine Thompson Wood: KTW; Pennsylvania: PA; Pennsylvania State Police: PSP; DE: Delaware; law enforcement: LE; Frank Jackamowicz: FJ; Harrison "Harry" Wilson Wood (son of KTW): HW

Est age of interviewee: 38

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

- 1. I met with CSR at the Avondale Barracks of the PSP at 1100 on 25 March 2015. He had two two-inch-thick binders which he said were the interviews and other materials on the KTW case, and he mentioned that other materials on the case filled an entire box (which was not present). He did not show me the binders, but we discussed the case and he referred to the binders on many occasions. I stated again that I was a writer for *The Montgomery Sentinel* and just wanted to write a report on the two mysteries, solve the case or move it along, and not write a book or get rich on the cases. I described how I got involved in solving cases via the Steve Fossett aviation case and the formation of MAST, and how I grew up in Thailand and hence was always curious about the JT case. I said I would be happy to give him an e-copy of my draft report on the cases.
- 2. CSR indicated that he had numerous cold cases, and that while they were all difficult, this was an especially difficult one, since a key person in the case, son Harry Wood, had committed suicide four years after KTW was murdered.
- 3. I asked if there was any question about the suicide of Harry Wood. CSR stated that it appeared clear from everything in the file that Harry Wood did kill himself, and there was no "staging" involved.
- 4. I asked about the murder weapon, and CSR stated that the weapon had never been found. An ax and other items had blood on them, but upon examination and testing they were found to not be the murder weapon.
- 5. CSR asked if I had heard of a Donald Smith of West Kingston, RI. I said I had not. He said that Smith had recently written to the PA Governor and other officials, filing a state level "right to know Act" request, to obtain the KTW case file. This request was denied. Smith stated in his letter that he was planning on writing a book on the JT and KTW cases. [I subsequently tried to locate Smith, found there were 2-3 Smiths in West Kingston, tried to call them, and was not able to reach anyone.]
- 6. CSR stated that the PSP had not let this KTW case drop, and had done follow-up calls on the case as recently as 2013, mainly by trying to talk to the two sons of Harry Wood.

- They had moved west to New Mexico or Michigan, and were not cooperative, and refused to talk to the PSP.
- 7. CSR stated that he had had at least two predecessors at the PSP working on this and other cold cases. This case had not yet been indexed and was thus difficult to read. Also, modern cases are arranged by chapters, with a table of contents and sequential page numbers, so that they are easier to read and understand; this case was not, and was done in the old style. He had added the page numbers.
- 8. CSR stated in response to my question about Harry Wood taking a polygraph that he was not aware of Wood taking a polygraph, although other persons in the case did so. CSR views a polygraph as only a tool, and the results are not admissible in court. However, he feels that the KTW crime scene was so disturbing that anyone who was guilty, who denied seeing the scene, would almost certainly register on the polygraph as lying.
- 9. CSR stated that Emory Church, the handyman and possible POI in the KTW murder, did take a polygraph exam and passed. CSR would be reluctant to rule Church out completely as a suspect, since he (CSR) was not present at the time, but Church seemed unlikely as a suspect.
- 10. I asked about the odd circumstance that the maid Hazel Walters did not call the police right away, but called a lawyer, Rodney Layton, who arrived first at the scene. He said that he did not find this so odd, since there was no 911 in 1967, one had to call the operator, and she perhaps knew Layton.
- 11. I asked about the KTW dogs, and CSR stated that from the interviews it appeared that both of KTW's dogs were considered vicious, even the Golden Retriever, a breed which is normally very friendly, while the German Shepherd breed is naturally a guard dog. CSR said that there were no reports of either dog barking in the night. However, the next door veterinarian William Butler stated that his dogs barked a lot and would not stop, for a time around 2:00 am, a few hours before the body was found in the morning by Hazel Walters. Butler apparently did not get on well with KTW, and KTW's Golden Retriever had previously killed Butler's pet puppy. Thus Butler was the source of the report that the Retriever was vicious. Butler also said that both of KTW's dogs would attack other dogs.
- 12. I asked if the PSP had ever considered that the murder might have been done by the notorious Robert Johnston, Sr. gang, who committed murders, thefts, and possibly hundreds of break-ins in Chester county and other nearby counties in the 1960s and 1970s. CSR stated that almost every major crime in the area was analyzed in terms of the Johnston gang, including this one. However, this murder did not seem to fit the gang's style. Their murders were not of robbery victims, but of people who were going to, or might, inform on the gang. Also, the gang did not create messy, bloody crime scenes like the KTW scene, they just generally shot or killed the person and left. Also, the date of 1967 was a bit early for that gang to have been murdering people; at that point they were

- likely more involved in petty theft and stealing tractors. Hence the PSP conclusion was that the Johnston gang was not likely to have been involved in the KTW murder.
- 13. CSR stated that Frank Jackamowicz (FJ) and his common law wife Mary were a focus of the police investigation in 1967. This investigation showed that FJ and Mary had left the area by August 24 [1967], some days before the murder, as shown by hotel bills. Further investigations showed that it was unlikely that FJ was involved, there was no evidence of a connection, and hence he was not a key suspect. [FJ is described in press reports in the Chester County *Local Paper* as a "drifter" who was convicted as murdering an elderly woman in Philadelphia, after the lady refused to give FJ a loan.]
- 14. CSR stated that KTW's son Harry Wood (HW) was re-interviewed on 12 September 1967 and gave lots of family and other information. HW stated that his company was doing well, with a turnover of about \$145,000 per year. HW said he took a salary of \$18,000 per year out of the company, and also had a trust fund income, which led to a total income of about \$24,000 per year. (We agreed that these amounts in 1967 were not huge, but were not trivial either.) HW said he had two separate loans from his mother in three amounts, one of \$10,000, one of \$3,500, and one of \$5,000. The \$3,500 was asked for back, so the home could be improved. [This was apparently KTW asking HW for this amount back, so she could improve her home.] HW said that he paid KTW interest on these loans. HW said that his business was doing well enough that he was starting to buy KTW's shares in the company. [Almost certainly Canine Caterers.]
- 15. CSR stated that other interviews showed that HW was divorced for a second time in 1964, and that KTW liked HW's first wife but thought the second wife was a "gold digger." I noted that the HW estate papers showed monthly payments from HW to his ex- wife for alimony.
- 16. CSR stated that during the interviews soon after the KTW murder, HW stated to detectives that he (HW) had had psychiatric problems and visited a psychiatrist. I noted that the HW estate papers showed that he had been treated in Bangor, Maine for psychiatric issues. I also noted that KTW owned properties in Bangor and in Rehoboth Beach, DE; it appeared that information on this was not in the PSP file.
- 17. CSR stated that the general trend for the KTW investigation was to focus on Harry Wood, since he had committed suicide four years after the murder, and due to the other factors in the investigation. This did not mean that HW did it, or that other persons were not possible as culprits, but that the investigation kept coming back to him.
- 18. I asked about the financial dealings between KTW and HW, and described the odd financial circumstances in this case: that their jointly owned firm Canine Caterers was supposedly doing badly according to my respondent Otis Wells Foster, that HW said he was "almost starving" before his mother's death, the firm's 300 shares were valued at only their face value of about \$18,000 in 1970 as part of the KTW estate valuation and settlement, yet the firm was valued at \$421,423 in 1971 as part of the HW estate, and he was getting a decent salary in 1967. And the HW estate had to pay about \$110,000 in

Federal tax on the value of the firm (a very large amount). CSR replied that the finances were not really a focus of the investigation. He possibly seemed to indicate that this type of financial information derived from the two estate files (KTW and HW) was not present in the case file. CSR commented that the joint ownership and loans could lead to tensions in the relationship between the two persons.

19. CSR stated (at the end of the meeting) that it was fine if I wrote up the discussion for this report and used his name. I gave him a draft copy in pdf form of my 660+ page report, dated 23 March 2015, via transfer from my computer to his thumb drive.

#end#



## Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview notes

Focus topic of interview: Murder of Katharine "Ka" Thompson Wood in Pennsylvania

Name of interviewee: Terry A. Strine

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none

Date interviewed: 4 April 2014

Approximate duration of interview: 20 minutes

Location of interview: LT in Silver Spring, MD; TAS in Delaware

Interviewed by phone \_x\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_\_ or email\_\_

Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)

Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_\_

Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_ Excellent\_x\_\_

Contact info for this interviewee:

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_x\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_\_

Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Present owner of the house in which Ka Thompson Wood was murdered.

Abbreviations: This respondent: TAS; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH; Lew Toulmin: LT; Katharine Thompson Wood (KTW)

Est age of interviewee: unclear, probably over 65 in 2014.

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. TAS stated that he owns the house at 51 Selbourne Drive, Chadds Ford, PA in which the murder of KTW took place in 1967.
- 2. He did not know KTW or JT.
- 3. He later heard rumors, unsubstantiated and sometimes "eighth hand," that KTW was perhaps killed by a Mexican gardener or worker, or that KTW's son killed her.
- 4. TAS understands that the police never charged anyone with the crime.
- 5. TAS states that he is one of several owners of the house since KTW. These owners include, in order: Wells Foster, Henry Weiner, and Judy Baldino (sic?).
- 6. TAS has visited the JT home/museum in Bangkok since 1967.
- 7. The house at 51 Selbourne Drive is in PA, in the 19317 zip code, in Chester County. However, of the two driveways, one is partly in Delaware, and the other is in PA. Some of the land is in Delaware. And Thompson's mailing address was considered to be "Centerville, Delaware." Thus there is sometimes confusion about which state has jurisdiction. The property is on the large part of a circle that forms the northern border of Delaware.
- 8. TAS has heard rumors that KTW was rough on her help, and berated her son quite a bit.
- 9. TAS has no direct knowledge of the case. He thinks that persons who may know and should be interviewed include: George A. Stetson, of 47 Selbourne Dr., who was a neighbor of KTW in 1967, was a teacher, is now retired, walks his dogs through the area, and knows what happens in the neighborhood; Wells Foster [Otis Wells Foster], who is connected to the DuPonts, bought the house from the Thompson estate, and was present during the investigative period; and Hal [Harry G.] Haskell, 90 years old but still sharp, was with the Nature Conservancy.
- 10. TAS thought that JT disappeared from Thailand, not Malaysia. I described the actual facts briefly.
- 11. He wished me well with the case investigation.

#end#



## Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview notes

Name of interviewe: Otis Wells Foster (a.k.a. O. Wells Foster or Wells Foster)

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none

Date interviewed: 15 April 2014

Approximate duration of interview: 60 minutes

Location of interview: LT in Silver Spring, MD; OWF in PA

Interviewed by phone \_x\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_\_ or email\_\_

Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_\_\_

Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)

Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_ Excellent\_x\_\_

Contact info for this interviewee:

Note re contact info:

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_x\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_\_

Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Former owner of the house in which Ka Thompson Wood was murdered.

Abbreviations: This respondent: OWF; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH; Lew Toulmin: LT; Katharine "Ka" Thompson Wood (KTW); Pennsylvania: PA

Age of interviewee: stated he was 83 in 2014, hence born in 1931 and was about 36 in 1967.

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

#### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. OWF stated that he rented then owned the house at 51 Selbourne Drive, Chadds Ford, PA in which the murder of KTW took place in 1967, and started renting the house immediately after the murder.
- 2. OWF stated that he and his wife moved to the Chadds Ford area from Philadelphia in about 1967 and started looking for a better house.
- 3. OWF knew KTW and her son Harry and Harry's children, through OWF's mother, who was friends with KTW.
- 4. OWF said Ka was a fascinating woman. She had two sons, the older was Harry [Harrison Wilson Wood]. He was old enough to understand that he was getting a brother, when his mother became pregnant. When the second son was born, this second son was sickly and went back to hospital with Ka. He then died, and Ka was so terribly upset and unbalanced that she took the dead child back to her house, wrapped him in a blanket, and refused to give up the body for about a week. Finally she was persuaded to give it up. But clearly she had mental issues. And also OWF thinks this terrible episode very negatively affected Harry, and perhaps poisoned Ka's relationship with Harry. Harry committed suicide some time after the murder.
- 5. Ka was divorced from her husband, the father of Harry.
- 6. OWF said that Harry grew up, married, had kids, and got divorced. Ka did not get along with Harry's wife, and criticized how the children were being brought up.
- 7. OWF identified the house as attractive and tried to buy it, but it couldn't be sold, per the will of KTW, who left the house to her son Harry's children, and specified that it couldn't be sold. Apparently she did not trust Harry to preserve the house for her grandchildren, who were minors at the time, and was afraid Harry would sell the house and spend the money. So OWF and his wife rented the house, instead of buying it.
- 8. After the murder and while they were renting, the house became a ghoulish tourist attraction, and people drove by and even came up the driveway to see the murder site. OWF had to hire a security guard to patrol the house and grounds, to keep people away.

- 9. OWF knew the son Harry Wood, and OWF let Harry keep much of his family stuff, including Ka's items, in the basement of the rented and then owned house.
- 10. During this period [soon after the murder], OWF had a strange experience with a Jamaican maid. The maid was sent over by a neighbor named Rodney who had interviewed the maid by phone, then hired someone else. But the maid showed up anyway, and wasn't needed. So Rodney called OWF and asked if he needed a maid, and offered to pay the first 6 months of her salary if OWF would take her. OWF agreed to interview and perhaps take the made, but declined the money, since his second wife was from a wealthy family.
- 11. OWF hired the maid, named Yvonne (sic?). OWF was at his office (in the fuel oil business) when he got a call from Yvonne who was very upset, and who said, "I want to talk to you" and "some things in the house are very upsetting. You never told me Mrs. Wood was murdered here." OWF went over to the house immediately and Yvonne said, "I came down the stairs to the front hall at 11 am, the dog was barking and a person was sitting in the front hall with her back to me." OWF asked, "What did she look like?" Yvonne said, "She didn't have a head!" "She was covered in blood, in a nightie, and had been murdered!" OWF took the maid out on the porch, and she said, "I have seen Mrs. Wood before in this house, she passed me on the stairs. She doesn't want me here. She doesn't like black people." OWF said, "No, no, Mrs. Wood was very nice and really liked black people."
- 12. In fact OWF knew that this last statement was not true. OWF's mother, a friend of KTW, told OWF that, "Ka hated black people. She once hired a black maid and companion, especially to accompany Ka up to Maine on her regular trip up there. Ka stopped on the NJ Turnpike, and threw the maid out of the car, saying, "I can't stand it any more, you must get out of the car now." Ka left the maid by the side of the road and drove on.
- 13. OWF knew that the murder scene was very bloody, from having talked to a Navy pilot who saw the scene. The pilot said he had "never seen such a bloody mess." There was blood on the ceiling, the floor, the walls, and it had even soaked down through the floor to the level below, the cellar. Her throat was slit. There was blood all over the bed. As renters and later owners, OWF still found blood in places OWF and his wife hadn't noticed, even months later.
- 14. OWF knew KTW's son Harry Wood. OWF stated that "Harry was to be pitied. I had lunch with Harry several times at our house." [at 51 Selbourne].
- 15. OWF stated that the dogs that belonged to KTW were "vicious" and "may have been doped" during the murder.
- 16. OWF thinks it possible that the newspapers at the time were right in their theories that Ka was killed by Communists or a Chinese gang who were holding Jim Thompson in Asia, and who wanted him to pay or to make some political statement. Perhaps JT wouldn't cooperate, and so the gang reached out all the way to PA to kill JT's sister in the most vicious and bloody way possible, to force JT's cooperation by showing him the

newspaper clips. OWF thinks that one reason supporting this theory is that this appeared to be a crime of terrible passion, with a horrific crime scene, and was described at the time by the state police as "the bloodiest crime they had ever seen," according to an ex-Navy pilot who saw the scene. But in a crime of passion, the murderer usually leaves clues, and is not a careful, professional killer. Yet in this case, there were no clues, no murder weapon found, no prints, no fibers, no hair, etc. Hence the killer was as viscous as possible, but also as professional as possible.

- 17. Ka was very mean toward her son Harry, and put him down all the time.
- 18. Everyone in the community thought that Harry killed his mother. He was the key suspect. This made Harry sort of paranoid.
- 19. OWF stated that perhaps KTW did haunt the house. He said that he tried to keep his children, aged 7, 8 and 9, from knowing about the story. But they found out and he overheard them looking for bloodstains and talking about how the murderer "cut off her head."
- 20. OWF stated that one possible suspect in Ka's murder was a handyman who worked for Ka and for OWF's mother. This handyman [he cannot recall the name] was white, had 8 children and a laundress wife, was an alcoholic and a ne'er do well. He was named Church (sic?) and lived on Route 82 [locally]. OWF's mother tried to help the 8 kids and get them some education. The handyman came to Chadds Ford in a Model A Ford. He had just put all the 8 kids and a baby cow in the back of the Ford and drove to PA. Although he was a suspect, and might have gotten mad at Ka, he didn't seem like the type who would clean up all the clues, wash his shirt, and eliminate all the possible clues.
- 21. Ka's body was found by her maid, who came in, called out, and made a phone call to Rodney Layton, an attorney. Rodney came down and reported the case to the police.

[QUESTION: is this the same Rodney who (rather oddly) sent the Jamaican maid over to 51 Selbourne after the murder? Interesting. Suspicious?]

- 22. OWF does not know if Ka's ex-husband was alive at the time of her murder.
- 23. Harry Wood's children are probably alive today, they were 10 years old or less in 1967. OWF does not know their names.
- 24. OWF stated that the KTW will left the house to Harry's children, but this will was challenged in court, the judge agreed that Ka had of course not realized that she was going to die soon, and that the intent of the will was to protect the children, and this could be done by allowing the sale of the house, and holding the money for the children, apparently in a trust. Hence after this case, OWF and his wife were able to buy the house and not rent from the estate any more.
- 25. OWF rented for about 1.5 years, before being able to buy the house for \$100,000.
- 26. OWF states that no-one clearly benefited from the murder.

- 27. OWF states that Harry Wood had a "dog food selling route." He was not a dog food industrialist, but rather just sold dog food door to door. His mother, who was accepted by the DuPonts and associated with the best people in society, could not stand this occupation of her son's. Harry would attend cocktail parties thrown by his mother, and at these parties would inquire if the person he met had dogs. Often they did, sometimes big packs of fox hunting or other dogs. So then Harry would ask to sell them dog food.
- 28. Sometimes it appeared to OWF that Harry was doing so badly in business that he was almost starving. OWF theorized that Harry begged his mother for money, to help out him and the children.
- 29. OWF stated that after the murder, Harry would come over to the house [51 Selbourne] sometimes to get Wood stuff that was still in the basement. Harry would sometimes have lunch with OWF in the house, and he "was nice, but pathetic." Harry said, "Everyone thinks I did it, but I can't prove that I didn't." [I.e., commit the murder]
- 30. OWF stated that, "Ka was not a nice person. My mother and Ka did things together, for example at the Garden Club."
  - Note: on 9 May 2014 I interviewed OWF by phone long distance from Vanuatu to PA, for about 45 minutes, as follows.
- 31. OWF stated that he was collecting and copying the articles from the *Delaware News Journal* that I had requested by email on the JT and KTW cases. He noted that he only started collecting articles after he moved into the KTW house, which was about 2-3 months after the murder.
- 32. He stated he thought he had heard that son Harry Wood (HW) had killed himself, and he thought HW left a note saying that he didn't kill his mother but everyone thought he did, and mentioned his financial problems. [I noted that my research on Ancestry.com showed he died on Christmas Day 1971, and the Christmas season is famous for suicides.]
- 33. OWF said that he and his then-wife Lynn married about the time of the KTW murder, or within a week.
- 34. OWF's mother was scheduled to have lunch with KTW the day after the murder took place.
- 35. OWF and Lynn lived in Wauwassett (sic?) for a while after getting married, then went looking for a house. They saw the "for rent" sign on the KTW house at a real estate office run by Bill Patterson in the area, 2-3 months after the murder. They had no problem getting a rental agreement, since almost no-one wanted to live there. At first they didn't sleep in the murder bedroom, but then went ahead. They started collecting articles about the house, murder and disappearance at that point, and still have them.
- 36. [I asked about the lawyer "Rodney" who seemed to have a very close relationship to the two maids in the house; see "Question" above.] OWF stated that Rodney Layton was the

lawyer who was called by the maid first at the time of the KTW murder, and was the same person who offered OWF the Jamaican maid after the murder, and was also the "ex-Navy pilot" who saw the murder scene as so bloody, when he arrived after the call. But OWF laughed at the idea that Rodney Layton (RL) was somehow involved in the murder, and said RL was KTW's lawyer, lived locally, and that was probably why he was called before the police. Also perhaps the maid was not from the US (OWF was not sure) and hence did not really know what to do, and wanted someone in authority to help her. OWF said that RL was a super guy, with a great sense of humor, was a good friend of OWF (but is deceased now), was very well respected, did not have "DuPont-itis," like many locals, and was the least likely person in the neighborhood to have been involved in the murder. He would joke about local parties, rating them as "A" or "B," and would joke that the parties must be "B" parties if he and OWF were invited.

- 37. OWF said the Jamaican maid arrived about a year after the murder.
- 38. OWF said that he thinks the name of the handyman who was a suspect was Harry (?) Church. They went to Christ Church, and his 8 kids were very clean and polite, but wore patched hand-me-downs. Church worked for KTW as an intermittent handyman, was an alcoholic, and was perhaps capable of killing KTW in a dispute over wages, or because KTW was nasty. But OWF thinks he recalls that Church was cleared of the murder and was not a suspect. OWF knew Church through OWF's wife, who took 2-3 of the Church children under her wing and tried to help them.
- 39. [I asked if OWF knew that KTW has served in WW I as an ambulance driver and/or nurse, apparently at or near the front, and OWF said he did not know that.]
- 40. OWF remembers that the son Harry Wood stated after the murder that, "My mother treated me like dirt." She said he was bringing up his kids the wrong way. Ka was very socially minded and liked mingling with the elite social strata in the area, and being a part of that scene.
- 41. OWF states that he met JT at least once. He heard from "everyone" at the time and later that JT "was gay." This fact was "well known." [I said that JT was married, and hence must have been at least bi-sexual. OWF said he did not know that JT was married.] JT had lived in a big house in Delaware.
- 42. [I stated that I had found a marriage notice from one of Harry Wood's descendants that said that Harry was a "caterer."] OWF said that that word rang a bell, and perhaps the word "caterer was in the name of Harry's business, perhaps like "Dog Catering." But really he just had a dog food route, delivering dog food.
- 43. [I told OWF that the FBI had had a file on the KTW murder but had destroyed it in 1978, according to my FOIA.] He was very surprised but could not think of a reason for the file on an open case to be destroyed.
- 44. [I asked OWF to help me get an interview with neighbor Hal Haskell, recommended by Terry Strine as someone who knew what was going on. I noted that Hal had listened for

- a few seconds to me, then said, "I'm not interested," and hung up.] OWF said that I was unlikely to get anything out of Haskell. OWF knew, since Haskell is his brother in law.
- 45. OWF said he was interested in the two cases, since the KTW case "was part of my life" through his ownership of the house. He said he would send the news clips to my home address in MD within a week.

#end#



## Case of the Disappearance of Jim Thompson in 1967 in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia Interview notes

Name of interviewe: Linda Murphy

Nature of interviewee's relationship to case subject: none

Date interviewed: 14 April 2014

Approximate duration of interview: 50 minutes

Location of interview: LT in Silver Spring, MD; LM in Media, Delaware

Interviewed by phone \_x\_ mail\_\_ in-person\_\_ or email\_\_

Interview conducted by: \_Lew Toulmin\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_x\_\_\_\_

Tels for Interviewer: 301-942-6062 (h/w in USA); 301-775-6115 (c in USA); 678-55-07-007 (Vanuatu)

Interview conducted in: English \_x\_Spanish \_\_\_ Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_\_

Quality of language communication: Poor\_\_\_ Fair \_\_\_ Good\_\_ Excellent\_x\_\_

Contact info for this interviewee:

Bias observed in this interviewee: No: \_x\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ Possible \_\_\_

Describe bias if other than "No":

Background and qualifications of the interviewee: Trainer of cadaver dogs (or Human Remain

Detection dogs); with extensive experience.

Abbreviations: This respondent: LM; don't know: DK; Jim Thompson: JT; search and rescue: SAR; Moonlight Bungalow: MB; Cameron Highlands: CH; Lew Toulmin: LT; Human Remains Detection: HRD; Katharine Thompson Wood: KTW

Est age of interviewee: perhaps about 45 in 2014.

[Note: items in brackets are comments by the interviewer.]

### **Summary of Relevant Points in the Interview:**

- 1. I explained my reason for calling, including a summary of the JT case and the KTW connection. I stated I wanted to know about the feasibility of possibly locating the body of JT now, if it was in the high jungle of the CH, after all these years.
- 2. LM stated that the remains would be subject to predation, i.e. being eaten and scattered by predators. This is normal, and a cadaver dog can still locate remains, even of very small body parts that would be unnoticeable to humans. (Hence a better term than cadaver dog is "human remains detection" (HRD) dog.) This might even include a small sliver of bone that a human observer would at first think was a twig or dried bit of wood. Small predators like opossums and rats (or the local Malay equivalent) might pick up and spread small bones of the hands and feet a short to moderate distance, while larger predators might pick up larger bones and take them further.
- 3. LM is not aware of any statistics on how far bones might typically be carried from the actual death site. I noted that some of Steve Fossett's bones were found about ½ mile from his plane crash site, likely carried by bears, and she said that ½ to one mile was likely the maximum spread, since a predator just wants to take a large bone to a safe area to eat.
- 4. LM said that if she and her dog found one bone, they would spiral out from that location, trying to find others. If the first bone was uphill, they would go downhill first.
- 5. LM said that once a bone has been gnawed, cleaned and bleached, it is unlikely to be moved again by predators, but it can still be detected by cadaver dogs.
- 6. LM noted that trained cadaver dogs do not alert on animal bones, only on human remains.
- 7. She noted that the search dog works from air currents that carry the scent of the remains. In thick undergrowth, like a jungle with dense ground cover, these currents will be lessened, especially if there is no sunlight, and the dog's job will be definitely harder. A landscape that is more open and has dappled sunlight allows for more air currents from the dark to the sunlit areas, and spreads the scent so that the dog does not have to be right on top of the body part to detect the scent. This scent spread to the sunlight is called "chimneying." I said that the current typical CH jungle has enough ground cover and a thick single but not triple canopy that it sounded like it would make the task tougher.
- 8. I noted that the soil in the CH is thick red clay, rather like Georgia clay, and she stated that would only matter if the body was buried. I said that that was one possibility, and

- that one investigator alleged that JT was hit by a vehicle and the body buried by the driver. She stated that red clay would likely not breathe in the way that dark loose topsoil would, and that would make detection more difficult. This would also be true because the soil would likely be compacted by hard rains and monsoons.
- 9. LM was reluctant to estimate how deep a body could be buried in thick red clay, and still be detectable by a cadaver dog. She said that if a driver or criminal dug a grave to bury JT's body, it would likely be a shallow, hasty grave and that would help.
- 10. I described the search for JT as including grid searches with searchers 40 yards apart [per the Capt. Mohammad interview]. She stated that 40 yards was a very high distance apart for a grid search, and that in the ideal line search the individuals are close enough that they can see each other, and that they can look all around and see a body or clue.
- 11. LM does not know if there are cadaver dog teams in Malaysia, but thinks it likely. I stated I recalled seeing one mentioned on the Internet. She said that using local trained dogs who are acclimated to the hot jungle would be important in the JT case. I noted that the CH jungle is actually pleasant in temperature, since it is so high, but she noted that it would likely be more humid than a Western climate, which I agreed with.
- 12. LM stated that 1967 was not too old for a dog to detect remains, and that for example cadaver dogs have been used successfully in Vietnam to detect VN war victims and soldiers from the 1960s. There are studies showing that cadaver dogs have found human remains in prehistoric Indian mounds, and these finds were confirmed with ground penetrating radar.
- 13. I inquired about how much territory a dog and handler could reasonably cover in one day. She stated that in a day, the team should take lots of breaks, since the searching is tiring for the dog, who does concentrated breathing ("stacking") to take in the maximum scent, and this panting is tiring. Also he is running back and forth, and he is running the numerous scents he detects through the thousands of scents in his brain's "scent library." So rest periods to "turn off" the nose, breathing and brain are important. Hence about four hours maximum per day is likely a reasonable search period, perhaps 4.5 hours with hydration. Since the case is not urgent and there is no life in danger, this is a good limit. In that time, perhaps 10 acres can be covered by one dog team, depending on the terrain.
- 14. I asked if some breeds are better for trailing work, as in the JT case where non-bloodhounds were used for trailing work. She said that any breed of dog can be trained for trailing, but bloodhound advocates feel that the bloodhound breed is best.
- 15. I described the JT trailing dog detection sequence, where three dogs did not track the scent beyond the grounds of the MB. She said she could not really comment.
- 16. She did state that trailing and other dogs can make mistakes, are not infallible, and could break off a scent that actually continued.
- 17. She stated that a trailing dog would lose the scent at the point where an individual entered a car. At that point the handler would notice that the dog was not on the trail, and the

- team would "cast about" for the scent trail, but if it was in a departing car, it would not be detectable.
- 18. I asked about using trailing dogs to search down steeps slopes, as are found around the MB and in the CH. She stated that dogs are reluctant to go down very steep slopes, and must go down on rappelling type lines.
- 19. She is not sure when air scenting dogs were introduced into SAR.
- 20. LM stated that devout Muslims are not keen on SAR dogs, and feel dogs are unclean. She and I were not sure about the situation in Malaysia, but I speculated that Malaysians are not super devout, and are rather tolerant and Westernized, from my visit there.
- 21. I asked about the costs and payment for international deployment of a US HRD dog team, and she stated that payment for transport and expenses would likely suffice. But even that would be costly. Hence using local HRD dogs might be preferable.
- 22. I described the jungle and terrain of the CH, and she said an HRD search there would likely be difficult, and might be successful, but might not. Narrowing down the search area to a manageable piece would be important.
- 23. She suggested I contact Robert Koester, a renowned expert and theorist in lost person SAR, who is a "genius," and "very accessible" and ask him to examine the facts. He might be able to "go beyond the Mattson voting approach."

#end#

## Annex 6 Results of US Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

This short annex contains miscellaneous FOIA correspondence and materials, other than the detailed batches of FBI and OSS/CIA records received. These latter two batches of material are contained in other annexes.

## Llewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.

13108 Hutchinson Way Silver Spring, MD 20906 USA 301-942-6062; lewtoulmin@aol.com

23 March 2014

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Record/Information Dissemination Section Attn: FOIPA Request 170 Marcel Drive Winchester, VA 22602-4843

Dear FOIA Officer:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. subsection 552, I am requesting information or records on James Harrison Wilson Thompson, generally known as "Jim Thompson" (1906—1967). Mr. Thompson, a US citizen but resident of Bangkok, Thailand, disappeared on March 26, Easter Sunday, 1967, from the Moonlight Bungalow in the Cameron Highlands in central Malaysia. He was ex-OSS (US Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA) and was known as the "Silk King of Thailand." The biggest search in Malaysian history failed to reveal any trace. The case has been the subject of four books and numerous articles, and is probably the most famous disappearance case in southeast Asia.

Attached are copies of pages from a well-researched book on the case by Joshua Kurlantzick, *The Ideal Man* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2011) pp. 210-211, stating that Jim Thompson has been declared legally dead. Furthermore, as of 2014 Mr. Thompson would be more than 100 years old.

I believe that Mr. Kurlantzick may have already done a FOIA request on Jim Thompson; this may speed your response.

I am also interested in and request under FOIA any records you have on the murder of Jim Thompson's sister, Katherine (or Katharine) "Kaa" Thompson Wood, born about 1893 and murdered in Chadds Ford, PA on 29 or 30 August 1967. The address may be 51 Selborne Drive, Chadds Ford. The two cases may be related. (Obviously Katherine Thompson Wood would be more than 100 years old today. The attached pages from the book by William Warren, *Jim Thompson: The Unsolved Mystery* (Singapore: Archipelago Press, 1970, 1998) states that she was killed in 1967.)

Please search your records and the FBI's indices to the Central Records System for the information responsive to this request.

If there are any fees for searching for, reviewing, or copying the records, please notify me before processing if the amount exceeds \$200 USD.

However, please be aware that I am a journalist, with regular columns in *The Montgomery Sentinel* and *International Travel News*. I am researching the Jim Thompson disappearance and Katherine Thompson Wood murder in order to write columns and a major report about the cases. The purpose of the columns is to illuminate the possible cause of the Jim Thompson disappearance, evaluate the quality of the search, analyze the contributions to the search provided by US Brigadier General Edwin Black and his aides (and thus to understand the activities and operations of the US Government), and to prepare for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disappearance, when there will be a major spate of stories in the US and elsewhere on the case. Thus the request pertains to current interest in the case. I have no commercial interest in the case or in using the information. I think that FOIA release of information may help lead to my being able to propose a scientific methodology for advancing the Jim Thompson case, with a slim but greater than zero chance of finding the body. For all these reasons I believe I should be except from any fees.

Note that I am interested in and am requesting all FBI records relating to Mr. Thompson and Katherine Thompson Wood. Thus the date range of my request is 1943-1968 (but also including any reports after 1968 pertaining to the disappearance and murder in 1967). However, if there are on-going sensitivities about any of Jim Thompson's activities, I am willing to receive information on the narrower questions of:

- 1. What information do you have on the quality and quantity of the search and rescue activities undertaken in 1967 in the few weeks after the Jim Thompson disappearance? I am especially interested in the number of searchers on each day of the search, the number of hours they searched, exactly what organizations and units searched, any information on where they searched, the exact search techniques used (e.g. line abreast searches, spacing of searchers, searching of trails only vs. searching of virgin jungle, use of bloodhound or air scenting search dogs, etc.), any "after action reports" or similar, and especially any search or topo maps from the period in the case files or reports.
- 2. The cause, perpetrator or status of the Katherine Thompson Wood murder.

I have done considerable research already on the ground in Malaysia on the first question, have already written 100 pages on the case, anticipate a final report of 250 plus pages (in addition to the news columns), and am happy to share my findings with your agency. My lengthy report will also be made available to the public, and will be submitted to The Explorers Club, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Malaysian National Archives.

I have led or participated in a number of other searches, for missing planes, missing ghost towns and historic plantations, and missing persons, and have a better than 50 percent success rate.

If you deny all or any part of this request, please cite each specific exemption you think justifies your refusal to release the information and notify me of appeal procedures available under the law.

Note that I am a US citizen.

If you have any questions about handling this request, you may telephone me at home at 301-942-6062 from March 27 to April 16, 2014. After that I will be reachable at lewtoulmin@aol.com.

Thanks very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Hewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D.

Llewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

April 24, 2014

MR. LLEWELLYN TOULMIN 13108 HUTCHINSON WAY SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

> FOIPA Request No.: 1258952-000 Subject: WOOD, KATHERINE THOMPSON

Dear Mr. Toulmin:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Records which may have been responsive to your request were destroyed 05/16/1978. Since this material could not be reviewed, it is not known if it was responsive to your request. Record retention and disposal is carried out under supervision of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Title 44, United States Code, Section 3301 and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 12, Sub-chapter B, Part 1228. The FBI Records Retention Plan and Disposition Schedules have been approved by the United States District Court for the District of Columbia and are monitored by NARA.

It is unnecessary to adjudicate your fee waiver request because no responsive main file records were found.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010). This response is limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's eFOIA portal at <a href="http://www.justice.gov/oip/efoia-portal.html">http://www.justice.gov/oip/efoia-portal.html</a>. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (60) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number in any correspondence to us for proper identification of your request.

Enclosed for your information is a copy of the FBI Fact Sheet and Explanation of Exemptions.

Sincerely

David M. Hardy Section Chief, Record/Information

Dissemination Section
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

This letter ruling was appealed via electronic means, based on the fact that it was not responsive (apparently referring only to the Katharine Woods case) and did not explain the circumstances of the document destruction by the FBI. No response has been received to date.

## Llewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.

13108 Hutchinson Way Silver Spring, MD 20906 USA 301-942-6062; <a href="mailto:lewtoulmin@aol.com">lewtoulmin@aol.com</a>

24 March 2014

Office of Information Programs and Services A/GIS/IPS/RL Department of State, SA-2 Washington, DC 20522-8100

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

#### Dear FOIA Officer:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. subsection 552, I am requesting information or records on James Harrison Wilson Thompson, generally known as "Jim Thompson" (1906—1967). Mr. Thompson, a US citizen but resident of Bangkok, Thailand, disappeared on March 26, Easter Sunday, 1967, from the Moonlight Bungalow in the Cameron Highlands in central Malaysia. He was ex-OSS (US Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA) and was known as the "Silk King of Thailand." The biggest search in Malaysian history failed to reveal any trace. The case has been the subject of four books and numerous articles, and is probably the most famous disappearance case in south-east Asia.

Attached are copies of pages from a well-researched book on the case by Joshua Kurlantzick, *The Ideal Man* (Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2011) pp. 210-211, stating that Jim Thompson has been declared legally dead. Furthermore, as of 2014 Mr. Thompson would be more than 100 years old.

I believe that Mr. Kurlantzick may have already done a FOIA request to you on Jim Thompson; this may speed your response.

I am also interested in and request under FOIA any records you have on the murder of Jim Thompson's older sister, Katherine (or Katharine) "Kaa" Thompson Wood, born about 1893 and murdered in Chadds Ford, PA on 29 or 30 August 1967. The address may be 51 Selborne Drive, Chadds Ford. The two cases may be related. (Obviously Katherine Thompson Wood would be more than 100 years old today. The attached pages from the book by William Warren, *Jim Thompson: The Unsolved Mystery* (Singapore: Archipelago Press, 1970, 1998) states that she was killed in 1967.)

Please search your records and indices for the information responsive to this request. I believe from reading the four books and numerous articles on this case that reports on the case, which attracted massive international interest, were almost certainly filed with the US Embassy in Bangkok, and may have also been filed with the US Embassy in Malaysia and Singapore, as well as with DoS Headquarters, including the Intelligence and Research branch.

If there are any fees for searching for, reviewing, or copying the records, please notify me before processing if the amount exceeds \$200 USD.

However, please be aware that I am a journalist, with regular columns in *The Montgomery Sentinel* and *International Travel News*. I am researching the Jim Thompson disappearance and Katherine Thompson Wood murder in order to write columns and a major report about the cases. The purpose of the columns is to illuminate the possible cause of the Jim Thompson disappearance, evaluate the quality of the search, analyze the contributions to the search provided by US Brigadier General Edwin Black and his aides and possible DoS observers (and thus to understand the activities and operations of the US Government), and to prepare for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disappearance, when there will be a major spate of stories in the US and elsewhere on the case. Thus the request pertains to current interest in the case. I have no commercial interest in the case or in using the information. I think that FOIA release of information may help lead to my being able to propose a scientific methodology for advancing the Jim Thompson case, with a slim but greater than zero chance of finding the body. For all these reasons I believe I should be except from any fees.

I know that normally US DoS records older than 25 years are transferred to NARA. However, I have some reason to believe that DoS may have retained some records relating to this case, possibly due to continuing sensitivities. See the next few paragraphs.

I am interested in and am requesting all Department of State records relating to Mr. Thompson and Katherine Thompson Wood. Thus the date range of my request is 1943-1968 (but also including any reports after 1968 pertaining to the disappearance and murder in 1967). However, if there are on-going sensitivities about any of Jim Thompson's activities, I am willing to receive information on the narrower questions of:

1. What information do you have on the quality and quantity of the search and rescue activities undertaken in 1967 in the few weeks after the Jim Thompson disappearance? I am especially interested in the number of searchers on each day of the search, the number of hours they searched, exactly what organizations and units searched, any information on where they searched, the exact search techniques used (e.g. line abreast searches, spacing of searchers, searching of trails only vs. searching of virgin jungle, use of bloodhound or air scenting search dogs, etc.), any "after action reports" or similar, and especially any search or topo maps from the period in the case files or reports.

2. The cause, perpetrator or status of the Katherine Thompson Wood murder.

I have done considerable research already on the ground in Malaysia on the first question, have already written 100 pages on the case, anticipate a final report of 250 plus pages (in addition to the news columns), and am happy to share my findings with your agency. My lengthy report will also be made available to the public, and will be submitted to The Explorers Club, the Royal Geographical Society, and the Malaysian National Archives.

I have led or participated in a number of other searches, for missing planes, missing ghost towns and historic plantations, and missing persons, and have a better than 50 percent success rate.

If you deny all or any part of this request, please cite each specific exemption you think justifies your refusal to release the information and notify me of appeal procedures available under the law.

Note that I am a US citizen.

If you have any questions about handling this request, you may telephone me at home at 301-942-6062 from March 27 to April 16, 2014. After that I will be reachable at <a href="mailto:lewtoulmin@aol.com">lewtoulmin@aol.com</a>.

Thanks very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Hewellyn M. Toulowin, Ph.D

Llewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.



### United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

APR 15 2014

Dear Requester,

RE: Any and all records regarding James Harrison Wilson Thompson including the murder of his sister, Katherine Thompson Wood.

This is in response to your request dated 3/24/2014. We have assigned Case Control Number F-2014-05698 to your request.

Based on our review of your correspondence, we have determined that we cannot process your request for the following reason(s): You have not reasonably described the records you seek in a way that someone familiar with Department records and programs could locate them. You have not provided identifying information (such as your date and/or place of birth, or the date and/or place of birth for all parties associated with your request; citizenship status for all parties associated with your request). You have not provided proof of your identity (see attached information sheet pertaining to personal verification).  $\boxtimes$ The records you have requested do not appear to be State Department records (other agency information may be enclosed). The records you seek are in the public domain. Your request is not dated. You have submitted your identifying information on forms that were not issued by the State Department, which we do not accept. You have not agreed to pay the fees associated with the processing of your request. Your request is not a FOIA Request. Your request was not submitted in English. Accordingly, your request is invalid and your case has been closed. Please see the enclosed information sheet pertaining to access to third party information. Please see the enclosed information sheet pertaining to custodial verification. Should you want to contact us, you may call our FOIA Requester Service Center on (202) 261-8484 or send an email to FOIAstatus@state.gov. If you want information concerning how to file a request, please refer to the Information Access Guide which is available at www.foia.state.gov. Please refer to the Case Control Number in any communication. Sincerely, Requester Communications Branch Office of Information Programs and Services

Office of Information Programs and Services

U.S. Department of State, SA-2 Washington, DC 20522-8100 Website: www.foia.state.gov

Inquiries:

Phone: 1-202-261-8484

E-mail: FOIAStatus@state.gov

FAX: 1-202-261-8579

The records you seek may no longer be in the possession of the State Department. The majority of Department of State records (excluding passport and visa records) that are 25 years or older and considered to be permanent are transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in accordance with Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 171.6. Accordingly, requests for such records should be addressed to:

FOIA Officer National Archives and Records Administration 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 3110 College Park, MD 20740 Telephone: (301) 837-FOIA (3642)

FAX: (301) 837-0293 E-mail: <u>foia@nara.gov</u>

http://www.archives.gov/foia/index.html

### WITHDRAWALNOTICE

RG: 59

Box: 00002 Folder: 0001 Document: 3

Series:

Copies: 1 Pages: 4

#### ACCESS RESTRICTED

The item identified below has been withdrawn from this file:

Folder Title: James Thompson Document Date: 07-31-1968 Document Type: Memorandum

From: Methven To: Spear

Subject: Jim Thompson Case

In the review of this file this item was removed because access to it is restricted. Restrictions on records in the National Archives are stated in general and specific record group restriction statements which are available for examination.

NND: 20104

Withdrawn: 09-13-2001 by: James Mathis

FOIA RETRIEVAL #: 20104 00002 3

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 20 04

## PRINT NEATLY AND FILL OUT COMPLETELY Martha Wagner Murphy. Chief \*FOR NARA USE ONLY\* Special Access/FOIA Staff Received date: / National Archives at College Park Date Due: 8601 Adelphi Road, Room 5500 Register Number: College Park, MD 20740-6001 Assigned to: Email: specialaccess FOIA a nara.gov REID: Instructions: Please complete all MANDATORY fields (\*). Be sure to review your request before REQUEST TYPE I request access to the following documents under (please select one): Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Mandatory Review provisions of Executive Order 13526 (MDR) DESCRIPTION \*Record Group Number: 59 \*HMS Entry/Accession Number: NN3-059-99-057 \*Procession Number: NN3-059-99-057 \*\*Record Group Number: 59 \*\*Record Group Number: 59 \*\*Record Group Number: 59 \*\*Record Group Number: 59 Location: Stack Row Compartment Shelf ARC Identifier: NND Project Number (ie. NND 969000): NN 3 - 057 - 99 - 057 Box number(s): \*Withdrawn Tab Numbers or Description of Information requested: SUBJECT FILES OF OFFICE OF THAILAND & BURMA AFFAIRS, 1963-75; MEMORE "JIM THOMPSON" 7/31/68 FROM (see attached withdrawal Notice) CONTACT INFORMATION METHVEN TO SPEAR \*Print Name: LLEWELLYN M. TOULMIN Research Card Number: Telephone Number: (301 942-6062Alternate telephone ( ) E-Mail Address: lewtoulmin @ a aol. com \*Street Address: 13108 HUTCHINSON WAY \*City: SILVER SPRING State OFT S. MD \*Country (if not U.S.) USA \*Zip Postal Code 2090 L "Signature Llewellyn at vone Date 28 Mar 2014 PRINT NEATLY AND FILL OUT COMPLETELY NOTE: A request MUST be legible in order to be logged.



April 8, 2014

Llewellyn Toulmin 13108 Hutchinson Way Silver Spring MD 20906

Dear Mr. Toulmin:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act request of March 31, 2014 which was received in this office on March 31, 2014. Your request has been assigned reference number NW 42920. This request was for RG 59, Entry A1-5416, NND 20104, Box 2, Document 3

We forwarded your request for selected records from among our holdings to the appropriate NARA office for further action.

The National Archives and Record Administration has limited authority to release national security or other sensitive information. Pursuant to 5 USC 552(a)(6)(B)(iii)(III),if you have requested information that is classified, it will be necessary to send copies of the documents to appropriate agencies for further review. If the records are unclassified, but we determine that there are other sensitivities, such as personal privacy, NARA will conduct the review of the file.

Please advise us of any change of address that may occur during the time that it takes to complete your case. To contact us regarding a change in your contact information or for information regarding your case, we can be reached by e-mail at specialaccess foia@nara.gov or you can call our FOIA customer service number at (301) 837-3190. You may also write to us at the address above, room 6350. In the event any correspondence to you from this office is returned as undeliverable, no forwarding address, we will presume you are no longer interested in pursuing the case and the case will be closed.

We will notify you as soon as all review is complete.

Sincerely,

DAVID FORT

June J. Forl

Deputy Director FOIA/MDR Division Supervisory Archives Specialist

National Declassification Center

## Llewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.

13108 Hutchinson Way Silver Spring, MD 20906 USA 301-942-6062; lewtoulmin@aol.com

21 March 2014

Information and Privacy Coordinator Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

#### Dear Coordinator:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. subsection 552, I am requesting information or records on James Harrison Wilson Thompson, generally known as "Jim Thompson" (1906—1967). Mr. Thompson, a US citizen but resident of Bangkok, Thailand, disappeared on March 26, Easter Sunday, 1967, from the Moonlight Bungalow in the Cameron Highlands in central Malaysia. He was ex-OSS and was known as the "Silk King of Thailand." The biggest search in Malaysian history failed to reveal any trace.

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However, please be aware that I am a journalist, with regular columns in *The Montgomery Sentinel* and *International Travel News*. I am researching the Jim Thompson disappearance in order to write columns and a major report about the case. The purpose of the columns is to illuminate the possible cause of the disappearance, evaluate the quality of the search, analyze the contributions to the search provided by US Brigadier General Edwin Black and his aides (and thus to understand the activities and operations of the US Government), and to prepare for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the disappearance, when there will be a major spate of stories in the US and elsewhere on the case. Thus the request pertains to current interest in the case. I have no commercial interest in the case or in using the information. I think that FOIA release of information may help lead to my being able to propose a methodology for advancing the case, with a slim but greater than zero chance of finding the body. For all these reasons I believe I should be except from any fees.

Note that I am interested in and am requesting all CIA and/or OSS records relating to Mr. Thompson. However, if there are on-going sensitivities about any of his activities, I am happy to receive information on the narrower questions of:

- 1. Was Mr. Thompson an employee of the CIA, or did he resign as an employee from intelligence work before CIA was constituted?
- 2. My main focus, which is: what information do you have on the quality and quantity of the search and rescue activities undertaken in 1967 in the few weeks after the disappearance? I am especially interested in the number of searchers on each day of the search, exactly what organizations and units searched, any information on where they searched, the exact search techniques used (e.g. line abreast searches, spacing of searchers, searching of trails only vs. searching of virgin jungle, use of bloodhound or air scenting search dogs, etc.), any "after action reports" or similar, and especially any search or topo maps from the period in the case files or reports.

I have done considerable research already on the ground in Malaysia on the second question, have already written 100 pages on the case, anticipate a final report of 250 plus pages (in addition to the news columns), and am happy to share my findings with your agency.

I have led or participated in a number of other searches, for missing planes, missing ghost towns and historic plantations, and missing persons, and have a better than 50 percent success rate.

If you deny all or any part of this request, please cite each specific **exemption** you think justifies your refusal to release the information and notify me of appeal procedures available under the law.

Note that I am a US citizen.

If you have any questions about handling this request, you may telephone me at home at 301-942-6062 from March 27 to April 16, 2014. After that I will be reachable at <a href="mailto:lewtoulmin@aol.com">lewtoulmin@aol.com</a>.

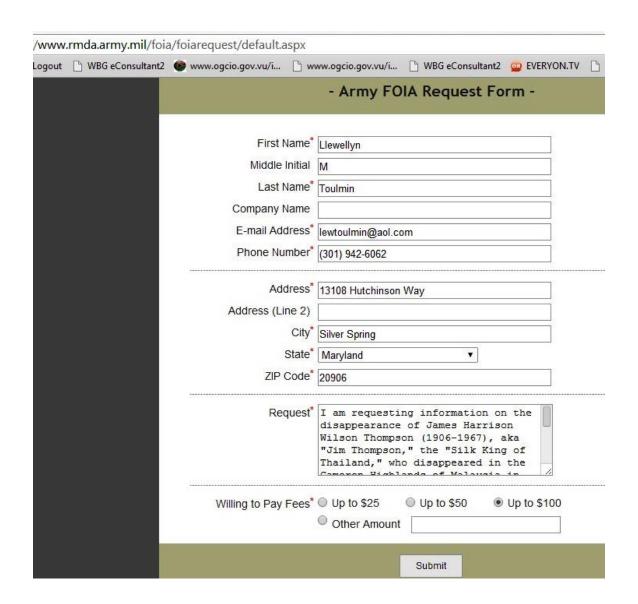
Thanks very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

Hewellyn M. Toulonin, Ph.D

Llewellyn M. Toulmin, Ph.D., F.R.G.S.

[The CIA responded to the above request with a number of military and OSS records from the World War II era, with the last document being the resignation of JT from the OSS in January, 1947. No documents related to search or 1960s were provided.]





#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY THE U.S. ARMY CENTER OF MILITARY HISTORY 102 FOURTH AVENUE FORT LESLEY J. NCHAIR, DC 20319-5068

April 23, 2015

Historical Resources Branch FOIA 14-004

Dr. Llewellyn M. Toulmin 13801 Hutchinson Way Silver Spring, MD 20906

Dear Dr. Toulmin:

This is in response to your FOIA request 14-004, dated April 5, 2014, and received at the U.S. Army Center of Military History on April 31, 2014, in which you requested information and Department of Defense records on U.S. citizen James Harrison Wilson Thompson.

The US Army Center of Military History is not a repository of records and we do not have any of the primary source documents, which would contain the information that you are seeking. The official records generated by the Army, by law, pass through a retirement process until they eventually arrive in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration.

For a copy of Mr. Thompson's World War II Army service record, you will have to contact the National Personnel Records Center via its website: <a href="http://www.archives.gov/veterans/">http://www.archives.gov/veterans/</a> Please note that the Privacy Act restricts the release of certain personal information to nonfamily members.

For declassified records belonging to the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), which are the property of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), you will have to contact the National Archives and Records Administration, Textual Records Division, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001.

Regarding your question about whether or not Mr. Thompson was "an employee of the CIA," classified records of the OSS and the CIA which may be related to Mr. Thompson, I must refer you to the CIA FOIA Office: Information and Privacy Coordinator, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC 20505.

If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Mr. Frank R. Shirer at the above address or at telephone number (202) 685-3098 or via e-mail Frank R. Shirer.civ@mail.mil

Sincerely

Frank R. Shirer

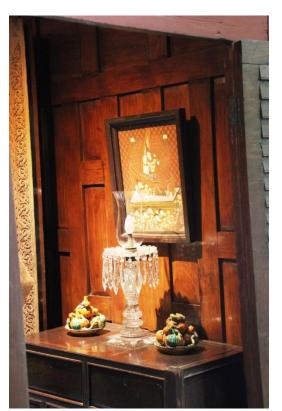
Chief, Historical Resources Branch

Frank R Sherer

# Annex 7 Contemporary (2013) Photos re the Jim Thompson Case



Part of the Jim Thompson House in Bangkok



Interior of one of Jim Thompson's collection of antique Thai houses



Spinning Thai silk at the Jim Thompson House



Carving at the Thompson house



Three foot tall Buddha at the Thompson House



Part of the road up to Tanah Rata in the Cameron Highlands, with 214 curves total



The verandah of the Moonlight Bungalow, where JT smoked his last cigar



Typical pyramid shaped hill in the Cameron Highlands



The staircase of the Bungalow



The Moonlight Bungalow in Tanah Rata, CH, the "Last Known Point" for Jim Thompson



The living room of the Bungalow



The Moonlight Bungalow in the 1970s (?)



Typical current sign in the Bungalow



Door to the Thompson bedroom in the Bungalow



The Jim Thompson bedroom in the Bungalow



The western side of the Bungalow



The Bungalow from the tongue of grassy land that projects about 70 meters out to the south



The tongue of grassy land, looking south to the golf course, main road and CH Resort



Looking west from near the front of the MB



The view NW from the tongue of grassy land. Note the ridgeline in the distance.



The view NW from the west side of the MB



View from the tongue of land looking west.

The Lutheran Mission Bungalow is in the center right with the red roof



Close-up of the Lutheran Bungalow from the Moonlight Bungalow



The east side of the Bungalow, with the Ling bedroom in the left center



The double-headed ridge north and NW of the Moonlight Bungalow. The "kitchen trail" down to the JT Mystery Trail is straight ahead



Capt. Mohammad points to the former MB kitchen, now hotel rooms.



New road being cut by MB owners, behind the MB, leading down and west to the Lutheran Bungalow Road, to provide alternate vehicle access to the MB.



The view from the road entry to the MB. The mountain on left is one of the highest in Malaysia; Boy Scouts searched it for JT. The Strawberry Hill Resort (and "hornet's nest" area) is the white building in the front center.



Naturalist Madi on the JT Mystery Trail. The MB is steeply uphill and to the right. Note the vegetation, and leaf litter on the trail.



The Moonlight Bungalow at night, taken from the Strawberry Park Resort by a telephoto lens. The neighbors are not pleased with the fluorescent lights.



Friendly welcoming sign at the entrance to the Moonlight & Sunlight Bungalows



The previous welcoming sign to the MB.



The Lutheran Mission Bungalow



The road to the right goes uphill to the MB, and the left fork goes to the Lutheran Mission Bungalow



The roads north of the CH Resort. The MB is where the car is; the Lutheran Bungalow is on the left center with red pushpin. The current roads generally match the 1967 ones but are a bit wider.



The All Souls Anglican Church that Thompson attended shortly before disappearing. Note Quonset (Nissan) hut rear and stone façade.



Ye Olde Smokehouse Restaurant in Tanah Rata, a favorite of expats in the Cameron Highlands



Rear of the All Souls Anglican Church



Smoke House interior



The "A 4" Bungalow entrance where Thompson may have voluntarily gotten into a car



Madi points to where his "auntie" says she saw JT voluntarily get into a car with large US (?) soldiers, near the A4 Bungalow entrance.



Left: driveway down to the A 4 Bungalow. Right: road south to Lutheran Bungalow.



Entrance to the OMF Bungalow



The OMF Bunglalow, east of the MB and the "hornet's nest"



View looking west from behind the OMF Bungalow, with Strawberry Park Resort (white building) in the distance. That is where the "hornet's nest" was located. A witness may have seen JT at the hornet's nest area from the OMF Bungalow.



Naturalist Madi beside the large stone on which Thompson allegedly rested, smoking a cigarette (Galleher, photo section, photo 28 -- but he left his cigarettes behind!) and was seen by an OMF Bungalow employee



The author beside the JT stone in 2013.



The JT stone on left, facing downhill. Capt. Phillip Rivers thinks JT was killed by a truck just at or beyond the far right curve in the distance.



28. This was the paved road down from the Moonlight Cottage with the rock on which Jim was sitting smoking a cigarette when he greeted the Mission girl.

The same stone in 1968. Note density of the jungle and difference in the road. (Source: Galleher, p. 106)



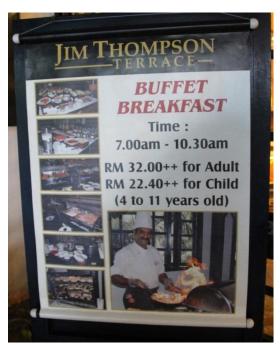
(Source: De Souza, p. 70)



The Cameron Highlands Resort



The JT Tea Lounge at the Cameron Highlands Resort



The JT Terrace restaurant at the Strawberry Park Resort

Annex 8

Information Regarding the Family of Katherine Thompson Wood and JT

From The New York Times: 14 October 1984

Sabina Stuart Adamson Is to Marry Harrison W. Wood Jr., Restaurateur

Published: October 14, 1984

Mr. and Mrs. L. Talbot Adamson of Devon, Pa., have announced the engagement of Mr. Adamson's daughter, Sabina Stuart Adamson, to Harrison Wilson Wood Jr., a son of Joanne Jolliffe Strong of Katonah, N.Y., and the late Mr. Wood of Malverne, Pa. The wedding is to be in January.

The future bride, the daughter also of the late Dorothea Scott Adamson of Wayne, Pa., formerly headed the antiquities and tribal art department at Christie's East. She graduated from Miss Porter's School, attended the University of London, took the Sotheby's Works of Art Course in London and studied art conservation in Florence. She made her debut at the Philadelphia Assembly and the Bal du Bois in Richmond. Her father is a financial planner in Devon.

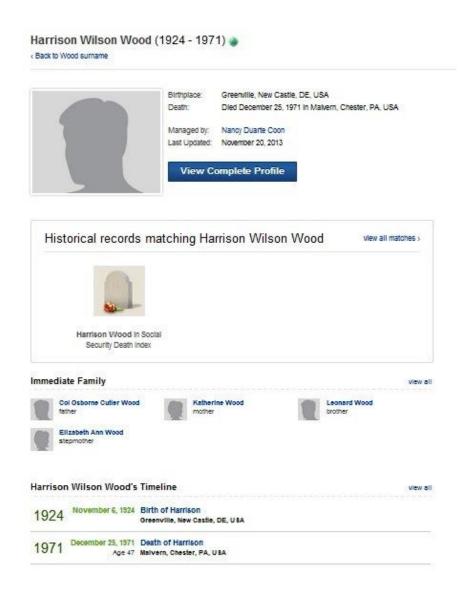
Mr. Wood is a co-owner of the Eden restaurants in Philadephia and a former brand manager for Procter & Gamble in New York. He graduated from the Mount Hermon School, Brown University and the Columbia University Graduate School of Business. His father was a caterer. He is a grandson of Mrs. Carey C. Jolliffe of Water Mill, L.I., the late Mr. Jolliffe, the late Osborne Wood of Albuquerque, N.M., and the late Katherine Thompson Wood of Wilmington, Del. He is a great-grandson of the late Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood, who organized the Rough Riders with Theodore Roosevelt and was Governor General of the Philippines and military governor of Cuba.

photo of Sabina Adamson

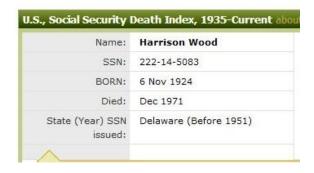
\* \* \* \* \*

[Note that the info above indicates that Harrison Wilson Wood was a "caterer." Key information above highlighted in red by the author.]

From: http://www.geni.com/people/Harrison-Wood/6000000023578826840#

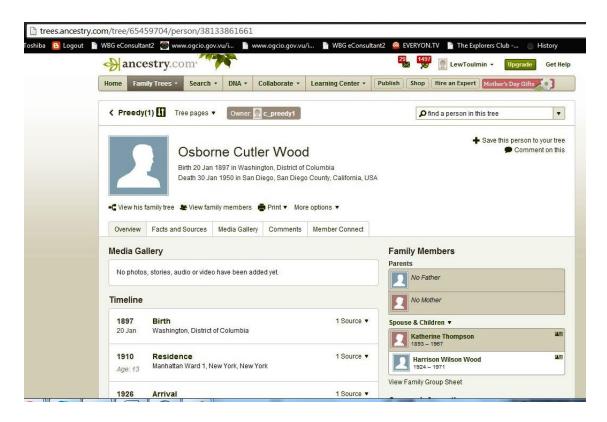


From: Ancestry.com:

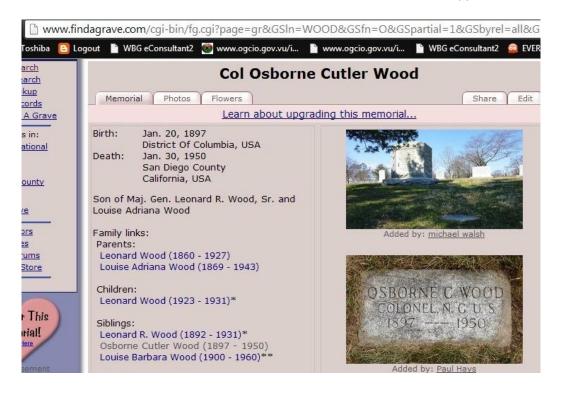


Name:	Harrison Wilson Wood
Birth Date:	6 Nov 1924
Age at Death:	47
Death Date:	25 Dec 1971
Burial Place:	Owls Nest, New Castle County, Delaware, USA
URL:	http://www.findagrave.com/cgi

Name:	Harrison Wood
Birth Date:	6 Nov 1924
Death Date:	25 Dec 1971
SSN:	222145083
nlistment Date 1:	12 Aug 1943
Release Date 1:	22 Apr 1946
Branch 2:	ARMY



The family tree above shows (but does not prove) that Osborne Cutler Wood, husband of KTW, died in 1950 and therefore (if true) could not have been a suspect in her murder in 1967. Galleher (p. 101) states that Osborne and Katherine were divorced, but does not state when this happened.



The Find-a-Grave record above confirms that Col. Wood did die in 1950.

# Miss Patricia Maury-Thraves Is Married To Capt. James Thompson of the USA

Mrs. Thomas Alan Watson of Gordonsville, Va., has announced here the marriage of her daughter, Miss Patricia Maury-Thraves, to Capt. James Harrison Wilson Thompson, USA, which took place Wednesday in the Chapel of the Centurion, Fort Monroe, Va. The ceremony was performed by Chaplain Edward C. Bierk in the presence of immediate relatives. The bride dispensed with attendants, and Captain Thompson had Brig. Gen. Rollin L. Tilton, USA, for his best man.

After a brief visit to Southampton, L. I., the couple will return to Fort Monroe.

Mrs. Thompson was graduated from the Oldfields School, Glencoe, Md., in 1938, and was introduced to society that year at the Richmond German. Her father is Robert Thraves of Charlottesville, Va. The bridegroom, son of Mrs. Henry Burling Thompson of Greenville, Del., and the late Mr. Thompson, was graduated in 1928 from Princeton University, where he was a member of the Ivy Club.



Mrs. James H. W. Thompson

Article from *The New York Times*, 2 July 1943, showing the wedding of JT and Patricia Maury Thraves (source: Ancestry.com)

# Patricia Thraves Becomes Bride of Capt. Thompson

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Alan Watzon announce the marriage of the latter's daughter, Patricia Maury Thraves, and Capt. James Harrison Wilson Thompson, A. U. S., on Wednesday, June 30 at Fort Monroe, Va.

The wedding took place in the Centurion Chapel, and the bride was given in marriage by her uncle, Col. Lewis A. Maury.

The former Miss Thraves is a graduate of Oldfields School in Baltimore, and she made her debut at the Richmond german in 1938. Later, she studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts.

Captain Thompson is the son of Mrs. Henry B. Thompson of Brookwood, Greenville, Del., and the late Mrs. Thompson. He attended Princeton and was graduated in the class of 1928. He was a member of the Ivy Club.

Article from the *Washington Post*, 4 July 1943, stating that JT and Pat Thraves were married at Ft. Monroe, VA on 30 June 1943 (source: Ancestry.com)

Name:	Patricia M Murphy
Social Security #:	119188755
Gender:	Female
Birth Date:	22 Feb 1920
Birth Place:	Oklahoma
Death Date:	3 Nov 1969
Death Place:	Santa Clara
Mother's Maiden Name:	Maury

From Ancestry.com

#### Annex 9

## Content and Analysis of the Wills and Estate Administration of Katharine Thompson Wood and Her Son

This annex contains the following information:

- Timeline of major events regarding the wills, murder and estate administration of Katharine Thompson Wood (KTW) and her son Harrison "Harry" Wilson Wood (HW)
- Analysis of the timeline in terms of possible suspects or persons of interest (POI)
- An official document from the Chester County's Coroner's Office, showing the cause, time and place of death of Harry Wood.

#### **Timeline of Major Events**

This timeline is largely drawn from the microfiche documents present in the Chester County, Pennsylvania Register of Wills Office under the KTW estate file, of about 250 pages, and the HW estate file, in the same Office, of about 200 pages. These pages are summarized here, not presented, for reasons of conserving space.

**23 February 1893:** Katharine "Ka" Thompson is born. [Per Social Security Death Index, www.ancestry.com, SS number 182-36-5335 and her death certificate.]

**6 November 1924:** KTW's son Harrison "Harry" Wilson Wood is born. [Per Find-a-Grave Index, www.ancestry.com.]

**22 May 1936:** KTW makes an eight page typewritten will, signed by three witnesses. This will leaves all her household and personal effects to her son Harrison Wilson Wood ("Harry") if he survives her. It also leaves the entire remainder of her estate to her son Harry if he survives her and is 30 or older. Otherwise a trust is created and he receives portions and income from the trust, until he is 30, when he receives everything. (A copy of this will is present in its entirety in the KTW file at the Register of Wills of Chester County. However, this will was not operable at the time of her death in 1967. All three of her wills are in her microfiche file.)

At this point in time, KTW was 43 years old. Her son Harry was 12.

**25 July 1958:** KTW makes a typewritten will of five pages, witnessed by three persons, and revoking her previous will. This will directs the payment of her debts and funeral expenses, and (as described later) "bequeathed her tangible personalty to her son, and also gave him the entire residuary estate." ["Personalty" is a legal term for movable assets which are not real property, money or investments.]

At this point in time, KTW was 65, her son Harry was 34, and her older grandson John J. Wood was six and her other grandson Harry Jr. was four.

**1960?-1967:** During this time, KTW's net worth and income apparently declined dramatically. See the 1970 entry, below.

**15 January 1966**: KTW, now aged 73, makes and dates a holographic (handwritten) will on her own notepaper, evidently without consulting an attorney. This is her third will. This will leaves \$1000 to each of the Home of the Merciful Rest, the Layton Home for Aged Colored People, the St. Michaels Home for Children, the Piney Woods Country School and the Virginia School of Technology. It also leaves \$100 for every year of employment to "everyone in my employ."

The handwritten will leaves her cottage in Maine to her son Harrison Wilson Wood ("Harry"), and her house in Rehoboth Beach, DE to her grandsons (John J. Wood and Harrison Wilson Wood, Jr.) "to keep or sell as they see fit."

The will states that her substantial house Selbourne Farm in Pennsbury Township, PA, with 12 or 14 acres [in two parcels, the most valuable item she possesses], must be "rented or leased for 15 years" until her grandsons "are old enough to decide if they want to live there – If neither of them or my son...wants to live there, then the estate can be sold and the proceeds divided among them."

The will leaves her (unspecified) "stocks" to her son Harry.

Some other minor bequests of personal property are made.

Two witnesses signed the handwritten will.

The main effect of this will, compared to the previous 1958 will, is to take the most valuable item in the estate, the house and property in PA, and tie it up for 15 years in rent or a lease, thus depriving her son Harry of a major capital item which he could have sold under the previous will.

Furthermore, under the terms of this poorly written holographic will, it is not really clear if son Harry was in fact entitled to a share of the sale of the house, even <u>after</u> 15 years of renting. This is because of the lack of clarity of the term "them" in the will. The "them" who must wait 15 years before selling are the two grandsons. Then the will states that, "If neither of them or my son Harrison W. Wood wants to live there the estate can be sold and the proceeds equally divided among them." So does the last "them" include her son, or does "them" refer to the original grandsons only, who are the "them" in the first part of this section of the bequest?

Surprisingly, neither the lawyers, the court, the accountants or the beneficiaries noticed this important nuance, and all treated son Harry as part of "them" in the holographic will and in the subsequent sale of the Selbourne Farm house, and he thus was entitled to one third of the rents, and later (after a court decision), to one third of the value of the house and PA property.

**30 August 1967:** KTW is brutally murdered in her home, Selbourne Farm, in Pennsylvania. No one is ever charged with the crime, and it is still unsolved. The death certificate in the file shows that the immediate cause of death is "brain damage skull fracture" from a "blunt instrument," and death occurred in "minutes." The petition to the Orphans Court of Chester County a year later called the crime "a brutal and widely publicized homicide, which is as yet unsolved."

The Chief County Detective, Thomas G. Frame, stated that this was "one of the most brutal murder cases I have seen." The District Attorney theorized that KTW knew her assailant, since her two large dogs, a Golden Retriever and a German Shepherd, who slept in KTW's bedroom, did not attack the murderer. (*Daily Local News*, 1 September 1967.) Per the estate papers, she apparently had \$36 in cash in her possession at the time of her murder, and this was not taken. Also, a \$2000 pearl necklace previously thought to be missing was in fact found in KTW's dresser drawer in her bedroom. (*Daily Local News*, 2 September 1967.) (This necklace was later valued at \$1500 in the estate administrations.)

**4 October 1967:** KTW's will is probated in Chester County. Letters testamentary are issued to her son and to Henry T. Reath, as co-executors, as she requested in her will.

**9 October 1967:** KTW's handwritten will is filed in the Chester County Wills Office, Book 94, p. 107(5). The court treats the holographic will as valid, but as a codicil of the 1958 will, not as a substitute, since there was no revocation clause. This means that key handwritten clauses stand, such as the one which deprives son Harry of Selbourne Farm for 15 years, and makes him only a partial (or no) beneficiary of any sale at that point.

KTW's two employees, entitled to payment under the holographic will, are Emery (or Emory) Church, handyman, of Hockessin, DE, and Hazel Walters, maid, of Stock Ford Road, Chadds Ford, PA. Each is entitled to 5 years times \$100 per year, or \$500. However, neither is paid this out of the estate, since the Court rules that estate consists mainly of properties which are specifically given to family members, and these take priority, and there is not enough cash remaining to pay the employees or the other beneficiaries such as the Home of the Merciful Rest. [This is called "abatement" of these beneficiaries in the court records.]

However, Harry Wood, in a generous gesture, paid Church and Walters \$500 each out of his portion of the estate.

The matter of valuing, selling and distributing all the assets is quite complex and it is not until 1970 (see below) that the matter was fully resolved.

**27 October 1967:** KTW's main property and asset, Selbourne Farm, in two parcels, is valued at \$95,000 for the 12 acre parcel and \$10,000 for the 2 acre parcel. The Farm has a mortgage of \$34,000 on it, and this is paid off by the KTW estate on 1 August 1968. The house is a detached, two storey stucco over block Colonial-style dwelling with one-story wings at either end, with five bedrooms and six baths, and a fully floored attic and a basement.

**On or about 15 November 1967:** Emery Church, handyman to KTW, is paid \$97 for yard work. Hence he apparently continued to work at Selbourne Farm and was paid out of the estate funds.

**22 May 1968:** Harry Wood and executor Henry T. Reath petition the Orphan's Court of Chester County, asking that the court annul KTW's wish that the Selbourne Farm property be tied up for 15 years in rent or leasing. This request is based on the fact that none of the three beneficiaries wish to live in the house in which their mother (or grandmother) was murdered, all wish to sell the house, the rental market is weak and other investments would yield a better return, and buyers (Otis Wells Foster and Carolyn Foster (who were renting Selbourne Farm then) have been found to buy the property for a sum of \$100,000, thus \$5000 more than the market assessment. This petition is granted, and the Fosters

subsequently buy the house, the 12 acre property, and later the less desirable, adjacent two acre property.

**30 June 1970:** In the Orphans Court of Chester County, the final accounting of the estate of KTW (Estate No. 1967-817, Audit No. 129-1970) was heard. Here son Harry Wood was called and examined, and stated that he was 45 at this time, was the only surviving child of KTW, that he has two sons, John Joliffe Wood, 18 years old, and Harrison Wilson Wood, Jr., 16 years old, that both boys live with Harry, and they were living with him at the time of KTW's death.

During this examination, Mr. Archer (counsel for Harry Wood) asks and son Harry Wood agreed that "in her lifetime, your mother enjoyed substantial trust estates, and income therefrom, did she not?" Mr. Archer also asked, "And, until a few years before her death, [KTW] had a reasonably substantial personal estate...however, our records show that at her death [s]he owned only a few stocks..." Harry Wood agreed with this statement and stated that upon opening KTW's safe deposit box, and otherwise undertaking a diligent search for assets, the executors and he could find only a relatively few shareholdings, and some of them were tied up as collateral on a loan.

In her safety deposit box were only 148 shares of General Motors stock (later valued at \$28,558) and 150 shares of Canine Caterers, Inc. This latter company was founded in 1955, and Harry Wood owned 150 shares and a Mr. A. A. Stoltz owned 150 shares. (These 150 shares were valued by the estate accountants at \$9951.30 in 1970. Note however that in the 1971 death of Mr. Harry Wood, described below, the company was valued at more than \$400,000.)

According to Harry's testimony, Stoltz had a non-fatal but debilitating heart attack soon after Harry Wood acquired his shares, and offered his shares to Harry. However, Harry "didn't have the means" to buy these shares, so KTW stepped in and "was good enough to buy those shares" and "she continued to hold those shares until her death."

The estate accounting is very complex and goes on for pages, but it appears that son Harry eventually received a total of \$117,074.17 from KTW's estate (Will Book 141, p. 603-7; KTW microfiche file) of which the major portion was from the value of one-third of the Selbourne Farm sale, worth \$19,622.09 to him for parcel 1 and \$2789.34 to him for parcel 2; the value of the Maine cottage, with sale proceeds of \$16,000.00; cash of \$17,083.50; and securities of \$71,023.48.

The two grandsons each received about \$41,000.

The "gross value" of the KTW estate was \$186,453, less debts and deductions of \$87,463, yielding a net amount subject to Pennsylvania estate tax of \$98,990.

Notable expense items in the final estate accounting include:

- Re-payment of a mortgage of \$34,000 to the Wilmington Trust Company. This company apparently gave KTW a mortgage, presumably on Selbourne Farm, on 21 December 1963. This is when the house was built; it included a two car garage and a swimming pool. This repayment was made on 12 August 1968, out of the estate funds.
- Repayment to Wilmington Trust Company of the decedent's demand note of 22 November 1966, in the amount of \$13,500. This repayment was made on 15 November 1967, out of the

estate funds. [Investopedia defines a "demand note" as a loan in which there is no fixed term or duration of repayment, but where the loan can be recalled by the lender, if the notice requirement is met.]

- Repayment to Wilmington Trust Company of the decedent's demand note of 22 May 1967, in
  the amount of \$3,000. This repayment was made on 17 January 1968, out of the estate funds.
  It seem possible that the security for these two demand note loans was her stock holdings, since
  the 1970 petition to the Orphans Court states (p. 6) that "her stock certificates were in the
  custody of the Wilmington Trust Company...having once been pledged to that bank as security
  for a loan."
- Repayment to the estate of a loan made by KTW to her son, Harry, for \$13,500. This demand note was dated 22 November 1966, and was paid back to Wilmington Trust by the KTW estate on 15 November 1967. [It appears from interviewing the Pennsylvania State Police cold case officer that there were perhaps two loans (or three?) from KTW to her son, one of \$10,000 and \$3,500, for a total of \$13,500; and one of \$5,000. See the interview annex. The details are unclear. But it does seem apparent that KTW obtained two demand note loans from Wilmington Trust, just six months apart, using her stock as collateral, then turned around and lent all or most of that money to her son, at six percent interest.]

**24 January 1968:** Harry Wood made a typewritten will leaving his estate (including the property in Maine he had inherited from his mother just five months before) to his two sons, equally divided. The will appointed his ex-wife Joanne Joliffe Strong (Mrs. J. Templeton Strong) as the guardian of these two sons during their minorities. The will also states (item 11) that "I do not exercise the power of appointment given me under a certain deed of trust of my mother, the late Katherine Thompson Wood (deed dated June 23, 1931)." [Since this date of 1931 is prior to the 1936 will described earlier, it is apparently a separate matter.]

**1971:** Per his later estate papers, Harry Wood was apparently paying his ex-wife Virginia Lea Bradley Wood \$375 per month in alimony.

**July 1971:** Per his later estate papers, Harry Wood received "psychiatric treatment and therapy" from the Counseling Center in Bangor, Maine, at a cost of \$100.

**29 October 1971:** Harry Wood made a typewritten codicil to his will, specifying which family heirlooms, including his stamp and coin collection, portraits of his distinguished ancestors (including one portrait by Joseph Cummings Chase or John Singer Sargent of Major General Leonard Wood, worth \$2000<sup>23</sup>), and other items, should go to which son. Other items of value or interest specified in the codicil include: Audubon bird prints, portrait of General James Harrison Wilson, sterling silver loving cup given to General Wood, silver cigar box and silver photo of the Prince of Wales presented to General Wood by the Prince, large silver table from the Cuban Governor-General's palace, drawing of General Wilson capturing Jefferson Davis, photo of Theodore Roosevelt presented to Leonard Wood by Roosevelt, signed and dated by him in 1909, etc.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> It appears that there is one portrait of the General, which Harry in his codicil thought was by Joseph Cummings Chase, done in 1920, but which the appraiser thought was by John Singer Sargent (a household name). This contradiction is unresolved.

**25 December 1971:** KTW's son Harrison Wilson Wood reportedly committed suicide in Malvern, PA, on Christmas Day (according to the Pennsylvania State Police – see interviews; also see Coroner's Office document at the end of this annex).

An obituary of Mr. Wood stated that:

[Class of] 1943-Harrison Wilson Wood died December 25, 1971, at his home in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Born in Greenville, Delaware, November 6, 1924, he was the son of Osborne Cutler and Katherine Thompson Wood. He attended St. Paul's from 1938 to 1943, was a member of the Concordian and a councillor at the School Camp. As an infantryman in World War II, he took part in the crucial "Battle of the Bulge." After the War and graduation with honors from Princeton in the Class of 1947, he worked for several small companies until the mid-fifties, when he purchased Canine Caterers, Inc., at that time a small Newcastle, Delaware, company specializing in the sale of dog food. During the fifteen years he owned the company, its net sales increased more than ten times over, to near half a million dollars a year. In 1962, he and a close friend organized the Cuban Aid Relief Fund, to help Cubans who had arrived destitute in Florida after fleeing the Castro regime. He was awarded an honorary degree by the International College of Surgeons. In his local parish of St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Sugar-town, Pennsylvania, he served with distinction as a vestryman. He is survived by two sons, John Jolliffe and Harrison Wilson Wood, Jr.; a half brother, Leonard Wood, and a half sister, Mrs. Mirth Hanson. His two marriages ended in divorce.

Source of the above: Archive Name: Alumni Horae; Volume 52, Issue 2, Page 134, Obituaries 3 Originally published: Summer 1972 url: http://archives.sps.edu/common/text.asp?Img=2330&Keyword=&Headline=&Author=&SearchMode=0

An obituary in the *Daily Local News* (27 December 1971) stated that "Harrison Wood, 47, is found dead on Christmas Day," and that:

- He was found by his swimming pool at 12:30 pm after he had apparently shot himself with a small caliber hand gun. [The 31 December 1971 petition to the Register of Wills states that the time of death was 11:00 am.]
- The Willistown Police Chief state that the death had been ruled a suicide.
- Wood had left a note for his family and this note would not be made public.

Interview respondent O. Wells Foster stated that the note said that Wood did not kill his mother, and cited financial problems.

**31 December 1971:** Letters testamentary for the HW estate are issued to John H. Archer and the Wilmington Trust Co.

**5 June 1973:** For calculations for the payment of Pennsylvania inheritance tax, the estate of Harrison "Harry" W. Wood is valued (before deductions) at \$544,015, consisting of \$75,000 in real property, \$47,112 in personal property, and \$474,000 from his "schedule C" assets. These latter almost certainly refer to the value of his firm, Canine Caterers. Thus it appears that his firm has either increased very

dramatically in value since his mother's death, or it was undervalued at that time (perhaps based solely on the face value of the shares). The estate included a house at State and Sugartown Roads, in Malvern, PA. Parts of this house were over 200 years old, on a piece of property that was 553 by 512 feet. The house is described as a stone, block and frame Colonial style three bedroom house, with three floors and a basement. There is a detached two car garage and workshop with a stone barn and other outbuildings. All this is market valued at \$75,000. The estate paid the IRS a substantial \$113,152 in Federal estate tax.

**1990:** By this time, Canine Caterers, Inc., apparently under the new ownership of Rowland L. Watson, had "built the company from a five person firm delivering freshly made dog food to mutts and mastiffs in Main Line mansions to a 100-employee company that distributes more than 36 million pounds of dog and cat food" across four states. The firm several years ago "sold its home delivery business." (See Vyola P. Willson, "What Love of Pets has Unleashed..." Special to the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, retrieved from http://articles.philly.com/1990-08-30/business/25932600 1 pet-food-pet-owners-iams.)

#### Analysis of the Timeline in Terms of Possible Suspects or Persons of Interest

The timeline above will be analyzed in terms of three persons of interest (POI). These are the son Harry Wood, handyman Emory (or Emery) Church, and maid Hazel Walters. Two other sets of POIs will then be mentioned.

Harry Wood (son Harrison Wilson Wood): Mr. Wood is a POI in that he was a major beneficiary under the will of KTW. Thus he had motive. He had the opportunity to commit the crime, in that he would have been able to visit his mother at Selbourne Farm at any time, without suspicion, and without alarming KTW or her two dogs. And he had no alibi. He had the means to commit the crime, in that he would have been physically able to commit the crime.

Of course motive, opportunity and means are not by themselves proof of guilt. Proof that the opportunity was in fact taken by the accused must be produced. That is not possible in this case regarding Mr. Wood or any other POI. However, it may be possible to speculatively analyze the possible states of mind of KTW and her son during various periods, and speculatively deduce Mr. Wood's state of mind and possible motives during these periods.

The first period is Harry Wood's early life, up until the age of 12, when his mother KTW made her first will. Here she leaves him all her estate, if he survives her and is 30 or older. If younger, he receives a certain portion at 21, at 25, and then the full amount at 30. This shows she is careful about not trusting him too soon with a large estate.

The second period is from Harry Wood's age 12 to his age 34, in 1958, when KTW, aged 65, changed her will to leave her estate entirely to her son. This demonstrated her trust in him, and her trust that he would, on his own, take care of his young sons, aged six and four. Likely he appreciated this trust.

The third period is in the 1960s, approaching January 1966, when KTW substantially changed her will to require that her major asset, Selbourne Farm, be rented for 15 years after her death, not sold. Because of the lack of clarity in her wording, it seems possible that she meant for her son to never get a portion of that asset. Also, because of the way she worded her holographic will, it seems likely that she meant

for her son to not receive the rents from the Farm during the 15 year period – instead her grandsons would apparently be the only beneficiaries.

Also during this period, KTW was possibly living beyond her means. She took out two demand notes, for a total of \$16,500, in just six months. And she apparently turned over one of these loans, for \$13,500, to her son, perhaps for his support and general use.

KTW was listed (on her death certificate) as having no occupation. Her stock assets which were reportedly large, were substantially reduced by this time. This must have increased her tensions and concerns. One of her few remaining non-property assets was her holding of 150 shares (50 percent) of Canine Caterers, the firm she shared with her son Harry.

Yet it is clear from an interview that KTW did not approve of this firm, its mission of "selling dog food door-to-door" and the way her son was running it. (O. Wells Foster interview.) She was a co-owner, yet with the 50-50 arrangement it was not really clear who was boss. This would likely have also caused tension.

Again according to the interview with O. Wells Foster, Canine Caterers was not doing well. KTW, as co-owner likely with ready access to the accounts, would probably have known that, and this could have become another source of tension. (Note however that the obituary and the 1973 valuation of Canine Caterers as worth more than \$400,000 seems to contradict Foster's view of the success of the firm.)

This same interview respondent (O. Wells Foster) stated that KTW did not like the fact that Harry seemed to use her high social connections to identify new potential dog food customers. (A use of the research materials finding aid for the Hagley Museum (hagley.org) shows that the DuPonts apparently relied upon Canine Caterers for many years in the 1950s and 1960s.)

And reportedly KTW did not like how Harry was raising his sons. Foster indicates that KTW did not trust her son, and hence created a legal instrument, her new will, to ensure that the grandsons would be the majority beneficiaries when they were adults, after the 15 year rental period. Foster states that Harry Wood felt that his mother "treated him like dirt," and sometimes Harry was "almost starving."

It is not known exactly what triggered KTW to write her holographic will, or when son Harry Wood became aware of this dramatic change in his financial future. He was likely aware from 1958 onwards that he was the sole beneficiary of her estate, and was likely under the impression that the estate was large. It seems (speculatively) possible that suddenly in August 1967 she told him about this change, and the many tensions in their relationship came to a head.

Possibly for a time after KTW's death, Harry may have continued to think that the estate was large. But by 1970 it was clear that his portion, even after the sale of Selbourne Farm, was not in the millions, but only about \$117,000. This was not trivial in 1970, but perhaps was much lower than expected.

So perhaps this might have led Mr. Wood to commit suicide in 1971, after the financial situation was clear. Or perhaps, as he stated to Foster (and possibly on a polygraph exam), he was innocent of murder, "but couldn't prove it." Or he may have had other problems that led to his tragic suicide – there is clear evidence that he was having psychiatric treatment. We will probably never know.

**Emory Church:** In the interview with O. Wells Foster, he states that the handyman for KTW was Harry (?) Church, or perhaps Harry was not the correct name. The will and administration make it almost certain that the person Mr. Foster is thinking about is Emory (also spelled Emery at one point) Church. He had worked for KTW for five years as handyman and gardener.

Mr. Church benefited from the holographic KTW will in the amount of \$500 but this payment was abated. However, Mr. Harry Wood made the payment of \$500 out of his own share, according to the court records. Mr. Church also apparently continued to work at Selbourne Farm for some time after the murder, an indication that he was not a serious suspect.

Mr. Church is mentioned in the interview with Mr. Foster as a suspect in the murder, but one who was "cleared." The PSP cold case officer (interview) states that Church took a polygraph and this did not point to his guilt.

**Hazel Walters:** Ms. Walters was the maid to KTW for five years, and also qualified for \$500 from the estate, but payment was abated and then the entire amount was generously paid by Mr. Harry Wood out of his share.

**Frank Jackamowicz:** This man and his common law wife "Mary" are cited in the *Daily Local News* (8 September 1967) as "drifters" who were in the area of the murder and were questioned by police as POIs, especially since they were charged with a similar murder in Philadelphia of a 73 year old woman they had tried to borrow money from. Ultimately, however, they were never charged with the Wood murder. The PSP cold case officer states that this person was investigated at length, and was considered to probably have been out of the area when the murder occurred.

The Bruce Johnston, Sr. gang: This infamous gang of adults and its allied "kiddie" gang terrorized Chester County and nearby counties with thefts and murders in the 1960s and 1970s. Some accounts state that the gang committed "hundreds" of break-ins. Perhaps one of these was at Selbourne Farm, and it went terribly wrong? This was not considered by the police at the time, because then the gang had not been apprehended, and it was only some years later that their organized crime spree became apparent. However, an analysis of their methods, targets and timeline by the PSP showed that it was very unlikely that this gang committed the KTW murder. (See the interviews annex.)

#### Document from the Chester County Coroner's Office on the Death of Mr. Harry Wood, Son of KTW

Coroner Gordon R. Eck, D.O.

Chief Deputy Coroner Eric Bieber F-ABMDI



COUNTY OF CHESTER OFFICE OF THE CORONER 313 West Market Street, Suite 4102 West Chester, PA 19382 Phone: (610) 344-6165 Fax: (610) 344-6018

"Committed Service and Responsiveness"

## VIEW OF FORM

An inquisition taken	at _313 West Market Street, West Chester, PA.
On the _ of _in the	year of our Lord _ before
Gordon R, Eck DO	of the County of Chester.
Name:	Harrison Wilson Wood
Address:	Malvern, PA
Age: 47 Years	Sex: Male Race: WHITE
Date of Death:	December 25, 1971 (Based on Date Found)
Time of Death:	12:30:00 PM (Based on Time Pronounced)
Place of Death:	Residence
Cause of Death:	Gunshot Wound Head
Manner of Death:	Suicide

In Witness Whereof, the said Coroner set his hand and seal this day, year and place first mentioned.

Andm R Ceh D.O., S.S. Gordon R. Eck, D.O.

#end of Annex 9#

# Annex 10 Information from the US National Archives II (College Park, Maryland) and a CIA FOIA on JT's OSS Service, Search Efforts,

JT Activities in the 1950s, and the Pollitz Sighting

This Annex is divided into the following sections:

- JT's relevant OSS personnel records from WW II, showing his character and background, and date of official resignation from US intelligence. These records come from the US Dept. of State (US DoS) and a CIA FOIA, and are labelled regarding their source.
- Documents from the 1950s showing that JT was arming Cambodian rebels and was in touch with other SE Asian anti-colonial rebel leaders (all US DoS from the Archives)
- US State Department confidential newsletter describing Thai/Malay border situation in 1967 (Archives)
- US State Department memos and documents describing 1967 search efforts and aftermath (Archives)
- Pollitz sighting documents from 1967 (National Archives II)

All this information was confidential or classified as "Secret," but has been declassified and is available for public review at the Archives, with regard to US DoS items, or is made available here, apparently for the first time, as a result of a FOIA to the CIA.

## JT's Relevant OSS Personnel Records from WW II, Showing His Character and Background and Date of Official Resignation

(Note: not all Archives or CIA FOIA records are presented; only the interesting items)

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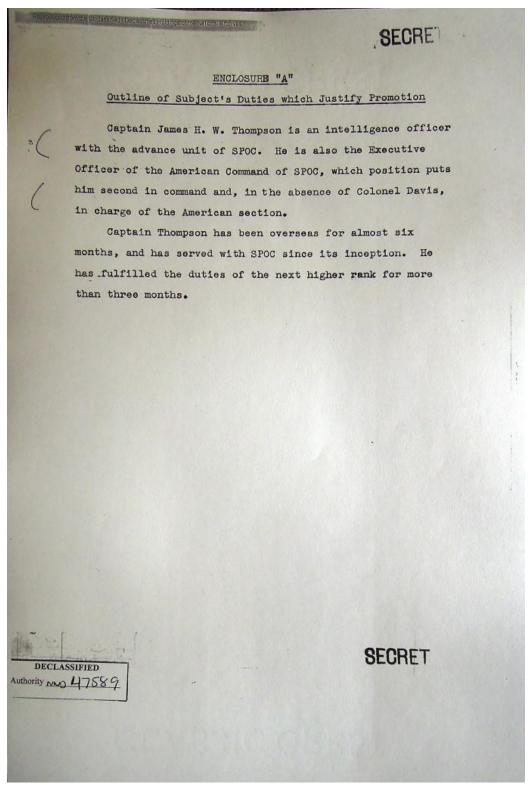
(from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS DETACHMENT OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES 2324 "F" STREET, N. W. Washington 25, D. C. SECURITY OBLIGATIONS All personnel attached to this headquarters are requested to read the following and to certify that they understand it fully: ART. 81. Relieving, Corresponding With, or Aiding the Enemy -Whoseever relieves or attempts to relieve the enemy with arms, ammunition, supplies, money or other thing, or knowingly harbors or protects or holds correspondence with or gives intelligence to the enemy, either directly or indirectly, shall suffer death or such other punishment as a court-martial or military commission may direct. TITLE 50, U. S. CCTE ("Espionage Act"). Section 32, (b) - Whoever, in time of war, with intent that the same shall be communicated to the enemy, shall collect, record, publish, or communicate, or attempt to elicit any information with respect to the movement, numbers, description, condition, or disposition of any of the armod forces, ships, aircraft, or war materials of the United States, or with respect to the plans or conduct, or supposed plans or conduct of any naval or mili-tary operations, or with respect to any works or measures undertaken for, or connected with, or intended for the fortification or defense of any place, or any other information relating to the public defense, which might be useful to the enemy, shall be punished by death or by imprisonment for not more than thirty I hereby certify that I have read and thoroughly understand the above excerpts from the Articles of War and the "Espionage Act", and further that I understand that the provisions of the above opply directly to me and to any information concerning operations, plans and personnel of the Office of Strategic Services that I have gained while attached to the Office of Strategic Services. Furthermore, I understand that all such information is classified as "Secret."

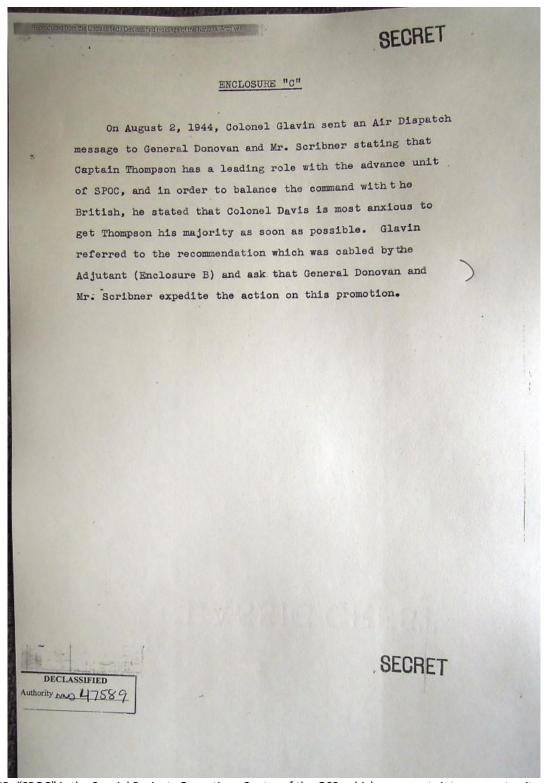
(from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority No. 4758

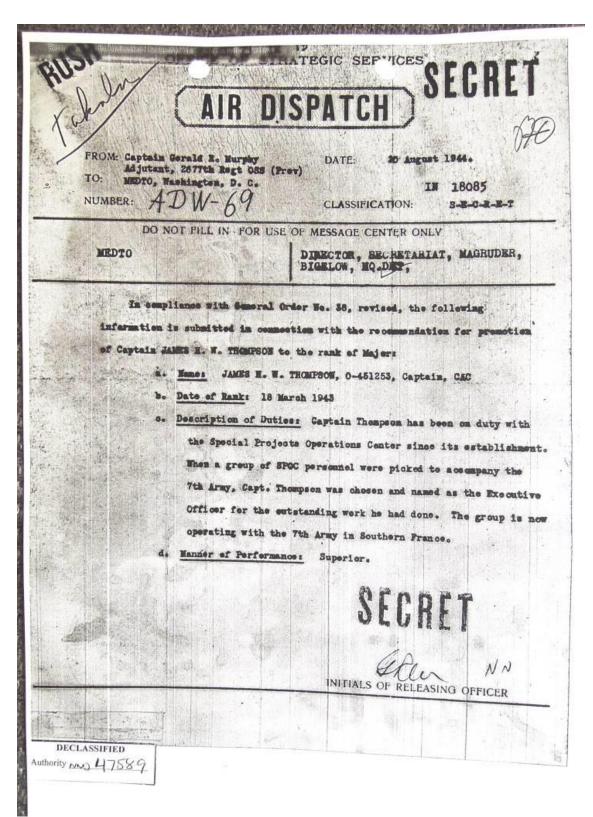
Reprodu	our from the Unclassified (1)	16535 <sup>de n</sup> i Holdings of Irra Navoya: Atelines	OFORET
PER			SECRET
		OFFICE OF STRATEGIC WASHINGTON, D.	C. BIR3-18-42
			22 August 1944 On 2178-43
	FROM:	The Chief, SO	Ogro38
The state of	TO:	The Chairman, OSS Officer	
-	THROUGH:	(a) Mediterranean Theater (b) The Chairman, SSO Bos (c) The Deputy Director,	and of Douglass
	SUBJECT:	Request for Promotion of Thompson, CAC, 0-451253	Captain James H.W.
	ENCLOSURE:	(A) Outline of Subject's promotion.	
in the same		(B) Cable IN-16337 from A subject's promotion. (C) Air Dispatch ADW-23 f and Scribner dated 2	now Cloudy to Do
	promoted f: 18 March 19	It is respectfully reques rom Captain to Major. Dat 943.	ted that subject be e of last promotion
13000	in advanced	There is an authorized al status.	lotment for subject
	the Theater	Subject's promotion has by by Enclosures (B) and (C	een recommended from
	grade but this reques	There are 22 officers have they have received considerate.	ing greater time in ration before making
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		equest is approved by the	following:
1		ranean Theater Officer	(b) SSO Board of Review
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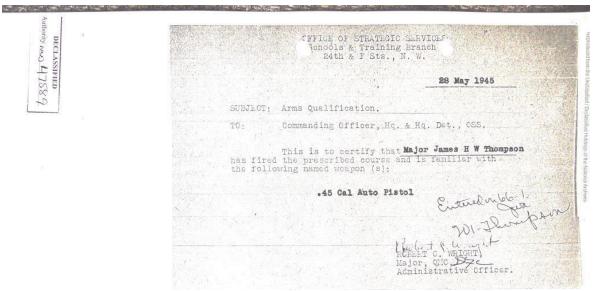


(from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)



NB: "SPOC" is the Special Projects Operations Center of the OSS, which ran agents into enemy territory. (from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)





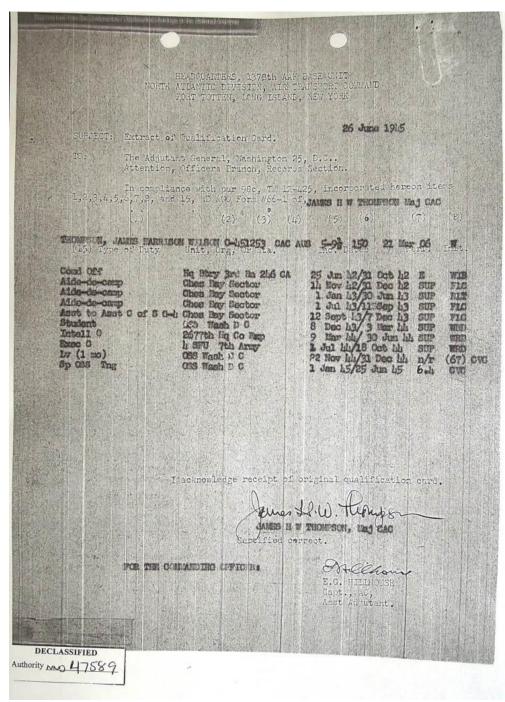
(from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)

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Discontinuation of allotment to Patricia Thompson, 1 June 1945, likely as a result of separation or divorce (OSS records, from a FOIA to the CIA)

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(from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)



JT service record, including coastal artillery (CA), Chesapeake Bay region, OSS in training in Washington DC then part of 7<sup>th</sup> Army, thence back to OSS Washington DC (from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)

THOMPSON JAMES H.W.	g	1	-	,	Dat		Report
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OSS document showing JT rated as excellent in physical fitness but lower in other ratings, and was likely to "run down his superiors" and the rating officer feels that he "would not like to have (JT) in his unit"

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (PROVISIONAL)
APO 512

200.6

28 September 1945

SUBJECT: Authorization for Bronze Service Star "Ground Combat - Balkans".

THRU : Cormanding Officer, Hq. Command AF, APO 512.

TO : Commanding General, TOUSA, APO 512.

- 1. Under the provisions of Section I, General Orders No. 35, Ar Department, 1 May 1965, recommend that the personnel listed on the attached rosters, all present or former members of this organization, be authorized a Bronze Service Star for the Duropean-African-Nidele East Theater Campaign Ribbon, for service rendered in the Lallan Countries, during the time limit 26 Povember 1943 to 1 April 1945.
- 2. Hene of the listed personnel have received battle participation credit under the terms of "Ground Combat", "Air Combat", etc., and it is understood that the award under these terms will be only once to any individual during the present war.
- 5. Each individual maned participated in actual combat with the enemy in the Balkans.

FOR THE COLLARDING OFFICER:

/s/ Joseph L. Palosky /t/ JOSEPH I. PALOSKY lst Lt, ATD Adjutant

2 Incl:

#1 - Roster of Officers
#4 - Roster of Enl isted Hen

DECLASSIFIED
Authority Na. 47589

DATA SHEET FOR FI ADJUSTED SERVICE RAT					
Name: THOMPSON, James H W	Rank: Majo		ASN: 0451253		
Br of Serv: CAC OSS Br: SI IB	Room:	:No. :	Phone: Multiply by	: Credit:	
1. SERVICE CREDIT No. of Months in Army since Sept 16, Date:	1940	53	1	53	
2, OVERSEAS CREDIT No. of Months served overseas: From:		9:	1 .	9	
To: 3. COLBAT CREDIT No. of Decorations & Bronze Serv Star Medal of Honor Distinguished S Legion of Merit Silver Star Soldier's Medal Distinguished S	Sv Cross	3	5	15	
Bronze Star Medal Cross Air Medal Purple Heart Distinguished Medal		: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :			
4. PARENTHOOD CREDIT No. of children under 18 years old Certificate in file:		: :	12		
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(from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)

-C00118477

22 Jamiary 1946

Wajor James H. W. Thompson, CAC, Oh51253 will occupy the position of Intelligence Officer in Bangkok, Sizm, and will report through Lt. Col. Moscrip, Commanding Officer in Singapore, to the Washington office of the Far East Division of SI.

Wajor Thompson has been in Washington on temporary duty and is returning to the Theater to take up the duties he performed prior to his recall to Washington Headquarters.

Memo re transfer of JT to Bangkok. Note that he will report to a Lt. Col. In Singapore; thus JT will be in effect the Chief of Station for OSS in Bangkok (from a FOIA to the CIA)



16 December 1946

TO:

Special Funds

FROM

M. K. Hallor

SUBJECT: James H. W. Thompson

NK DCC

l. Subject returned from Bangkok on Permanent; Change of Station and reported to Washington Boad- quarters 5 December 1946. Personnel Action Form 37-1 transferring him to FBZ Washington has been prepared, and will be forwarded to you in the near future.

ri N 2. Mr. Thompson is on annual loave and is to report to Washington Dock for duty for a short period after which he intends to resign. This will be reported on Standard Form 1130.

Memo showing JT returned to DC on 5 December 1946; thus he served as OSS Chief of Station and intelligence officer in Bangkok for only about 10 months

(From a FOIA to the CIA)

(late January or early February 1946 to early December 1946).

1	SERVICE CREDIT	-F-I-C-A-T-E	
4.	a. Date of entry into Active Service b. Dates of any other periods of act 16 Sept 40 in the Navy, Marine Co or service with the armed forces Nation.	ive service since	(From) MML
2.	OVERSEAS CREDIT  a. Date of leaving port of embarkati b. Date of return to a port in the U  (Any service outside the continen	g as	(TO) 1944 29 2001 1844
3.	COUBAT CREDIT  a. List each first and additional awing for service performed since 1  Medal of Honor Legion of Merit Soldier's Medal Bronze Star Medal Air Medal Bronze Service Stars  Bronze Service Stars	6 Sept 40. vice Cross ing Cross	Ama Ema Ema BSS
	b. List each award given for the fol- ations awarded by the Navy Dept formed since 16 Sept 40.  Medal of Honor Distinguish Navy Cross Navy & Marin Distinguished Serv Medal Bronze Star Legion of Merit Air Medal Silver Star Medal Purple Heart c. List each award or decoration of a which may be accepted & worn under regulations for service performed	or service per- ed-Flying Cross ne Corps Medal Medal t a foreign country	
4.	PARENTHOOD CREDIT  a. List number of children under 18 y as of 12 May 45 not exceeding a to	otal of three. No	
	I certify that the above in Combat Credit listed I have been issu zing award.	ed competent writt	en orders authori-
		VAJOR (Rank) S   (OSS Branch)	(OSS Telephone Number)
DECLAS			c.
thority (VV)	47889		

Document shows JT awarded three Bronze Stars (Rome to Arno; S. France; Germany) in nine months of active overseas service in Europe. May have earned others for service in the Far East, but these are not shown in the Archives (from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)



PEO-3

#### FAR EAST ORIENTATION SCHOOL

Georgetown
Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT: Major James H. W. Thompson

27 January 1945

TO

Major Thompson is reserved and gentlementy. His first written assignment was a fine job, done with precision. In his final problem he chose a good, specific target for an SO scheme, choosing his objectives carefully from a thoughtful list of physical targets. He wanted pin-point intelligence to implement his plan. We believe he would make a good executive officer and we feel he is well suited for inter-allied negotiations and limison.

F. TANODORE CLOAM Chief Instructor

Evaluation of JT as "reserved and gentlemanly" and he has the potential to be a "good executive officer."

(OSS document from a FOIA to the CIA)

	ELD Jaluk	23.72.1.	E1.47.	AVERACE.	1	
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COMMUNICATIONS						-
DPMOLITIONS						
WAPPING		x				
FISLDCRAPT			x			
ZEAPONS						
Mature and in ability. He direction and the authority not apply his	supervision	orker with uthoritat:	out much we job of pleasing	imagination administration personality	or creati tion under . Seems t	o la Di
expected.			into P	H . 461.2		

Evaluation form, apparently from OSS "East Coast Training Center," with grades (left to right) apparently of Superior, Excellent, Above Average, Average, etc. Most of JT's grades are Above Average or Average, and the written evaluation is unenthusiastic and states that JT lacks imagination or creative ability (!).

Note some attributes are not rated.

(OSS paper from a FOIA to the CIA)

# FEADQUARTERS OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES INDIA BURMA THEATER

SPECIAL ORDER

Zandy, Coy' 29 September 13.5

NUMBER 122

1. CAPT DAVID C MANDELBAUM O 925 531 AUS, is reld fr further atchmt to drivith Br HqDSSSU Det 404 Lox S AFO 465 and trid to OSS SU Det 303 AFO 885.

WP from present station to New Dolhi India for duty thereat. This is a PCS.

Tvl by air, rail, wtr and/or mtr atad. TDN. PCS. 64-238 P 431-02

A 212/60425. Per Diem payable in acc with prov of Par 1 Sec II, ND Cir 356/44.

Costs ultimately reimbressalls to the ND by the OSS. Finance 0 mkg pmt is requested to fwd one carrier with this 0 to C of Finance,

Budget & Fisc Sec, Masnington C, and one of same to CO, OSS SU Det 404, Hq

SEAC APO 432, Att: D. N. Cgan.

(Auth: Ltr 200.4 Hq USF IBT APO 885, 8 Feb 45, Subj: Tvl Order)

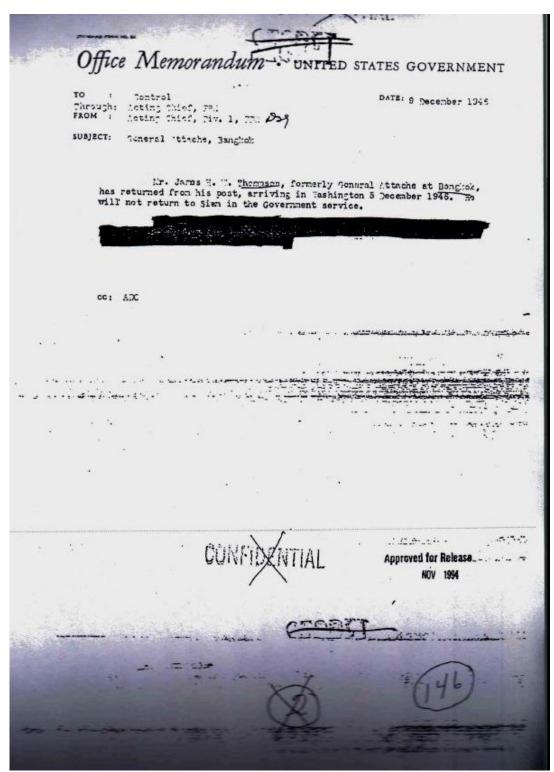
2. MAJOP JUMES H W THOM SON 0 451 253 CAC is reld fr further atchmt to and dy with OSS SU Detachment 404 APO 432 and trfd to OSS SU Det 505 APO 465. WP from present sta to Calcutta India rptg upon arrival to CO for duty & PCS.

Tvl by air, rail, wtr and/or mtr atzd. TDN. FCS. 64-238 P 431-02 A 212/60428. Per Dien payable in acc with prov of Par 1 Sec II, WD Circular 356/44. Costs ultimately reimburseable to the WD by the OSS. Fin 0 mkg this pmt is requested to fwd one copy of completed vou together with this order to C of Fin, Budget & Fisc Sec, Washington DC, and one of same to CO, OSS SU Det 404, APO 432, Att: D. N. Ogan.

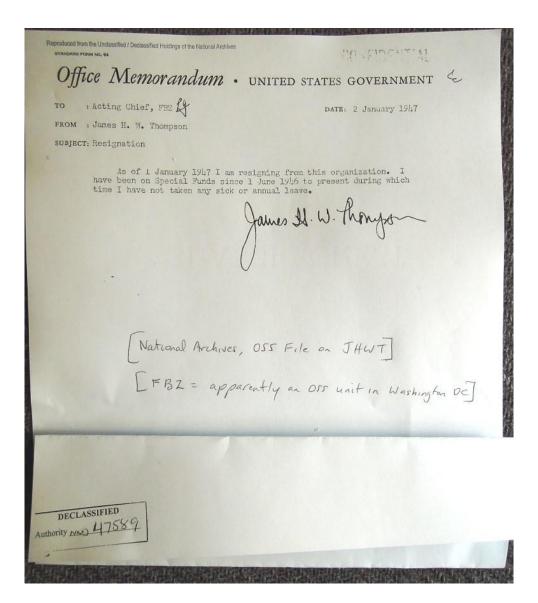
(Auth: Ltr 200.4 Hq USF 137 APO 885, 8 Feb 45, Subj: Tvl Orders.)

Memo re transfer of JT from Kandy, Ceylon to Calcutta, India on 29 Sept 1945.

(from OSS records obtained via a FOIA to CIA)



This is perhaps the most interesting record in the OSS files obtained via FOIA to CIA, due to the redaction, still In place in 2014. It seems quite possible, given the wording, that the missing words say something like: "However, Thompson will return to Siam and work for and with US intelligence as a civilian businessman."



JT's resignation from the OSS (FPZ was an OSS station in Washington, DC)

(from the US DoS records at the National Archives II)

# Documents from the 1950s Showing that JT Was Arming Cambodian Rebels and in Touch with Other SE Asian Anti-Colonial Leaders

	FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICANAL	2
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ECURITY :	Department of State  PRIORITY: AIR POUCH  RESIDENCE PRIORITY: AIR PRIORIT	uncOMP 6
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FROM :	SAIGON 93 August 23, 1950  LEGDESP 36, July 26, and LEGDESP 239, June 20, 1950.	FE
SUBJECT :	ENGLOSING DOCUMENTS RELATING TO ARMS TRAFFIC IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN AREAS I	DOD
SUBJECT :	Enclosed are documents recently presented to the Legation by Diplomatic Counselor du Gardier which relate to the traffic in arms in the Southeast Asian areas. Mr. duGardier requested that the documents included in Enclosure No. 1 be treated with the greatest care and asked that the information therein not be made available to Thai authorities. He stated that the data in Enclosure No. 2 could be made available to Thai officials but should not be shown in their original form. He had no objections to our discussing any of the enclosed information with British officials.  It will be noted that the enclosed documents go into considerably more detail on firms and individuals implicated in the arms traffic than the evidence previously given to us by the French. Most of the material is comparatively old and it is believed that the documents transmitted in the despatches under reference may have been based partially on them.  The documents in Enclosure No. 1, which are considered by the French to be more sensitive than the others, mention the names of prominent persons allegedly involved in arms traffic. These include Martin TINIO, brother-in-law of the Philippine Ambassador to Rome, several prominent Philippine nationals, high-ranking Thai Army	C 13550 45   G . 928 / 8 - 23
	officers and political figures, and the following Americans:  THATLAND:  James W. THOUPSON, described as an ex-colonel in OSS who is charged with being in liaison with Seri-Thai guerillas and permanent contact with PRIDI.  WESTER, ex-member of OSS and now director of Associete Internationale Engineering.	50 SE
	L. A. LEWIS, Director of Bangkok agency for William Hunt and Company.	R
	PHILIPPINES:	F30
	F. J. GRIGWARE, ex-American army pilot who has been connected with numerous arms traffic incidents in Malaya, Thailand, and Indonesia clong with C. A. HIRE, Carl RUEGG, Ralph COLBEY, M. MERRITH, and a man connect MAC MILLAN, James H. FLEMMING, ex-Marine pilot.	TE
not go	The action office must return this permangnot record copy to DCR speciment of action taken.	5
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SECURITY : SECRET

2 SAIGON 93 August 23, 1950

Also named as connected with the arms traffic is Georges GALETTI, an Italian national now residing in Saigon.

The documents in Enclosure No. 2 carry the names of a number of firms engaged in arms traffic and contain considerable material described more briefly in previous intelligence data. A document dated October, 1949 describes rather fully the process of smuggling arms to Viet Minh by water routes and shows how junks used for transporting arms are camouflaged as fishing boats, how they are manned, how they hide the contraband material, what they do in case of attack, and so on.

It will be noted from the enclosed documents that a large proportion of the material transported illegally has consisted or radio parts, electric supplies, chemicals, drugs, and general materials rather than weapons or munitions. The French are showing increasing concern over the traffic in such goods and are becoming less worried over the transportation of weapons from Thailand or the Philippines as they apparently feel that with the opening of the Chinese border to Viet Minh troops, the traffic in weapons from other Southeast Asian areas will dwindle to insignificance. From evidence which has reached the Legation from a variety of sources, it now appears probable that Viet Minh personnel are being sent into China where they are trained, clothed and armed and then sent back to Indochina. This procedure becomes a continuing arrangement whereby arms can much more easily be transported to Viet Minh territory than by the precarious smuggling routes hitherto used.

Donald R. Heath

ENCLOSURES: ////

Two groups of documents.

Copy to:

AmEmbassy, Bangkok.

185

Reproduced from the Unclassified / Declassified Holdings of the National Archives

EMCLOSURE NO. 1 5 SAIGON 93 August 23, 1950

SECURITY : SECRET

Le Colonel SIRI SUWANIWATSADU, commandant de regiment d'Oudorn a discute avec les membres de l'EM. Lao Viet au sujet d'un echange d'une grande quantite d'opium (en provenance de la zone V.M. en Indochine) contre du materiel de guerre provenant d'un depot d'armes Seri-Thai confisque par les militaires.

Le Major-General SUT SARAKORN (ex-commandant des forces terrestres) a discute de cet echange avec HUU BINH.

Le Colonel LEK SANGUAM CHATTSORAKAI, directeur de l'arsenal militaire a entreteny d'excellentes relations avec TUNG, delegue special du Gouvernement V.M.

Le colonel SURA CHAYANAND aurait vendu, fin octobre 1948, a Luong Kiem Siam, trafiquant chinois, un stock d'armes provenant du complet de 1/100/45, SURA CHAYANAND est signale comme sympathisant communiste.

Le Colonel d'aviation SAVASDI SAKAYUTH aurait traite de la vente d'un stock d'armes et munitions au P.C.C. dans la region de Nakorn Nayok. Six cents carabines americaines saisies a Petriu par la police siamoise proviendraient de cette region.

Le Capitaine NAY ATHIEEN - (capitaine de reserve dans l'aviation siamoise) charge des douanes et regies a l'aeroport de Kelang Teuy a ete arrete a la suite de la decouverte d'une vaste affaire de trafic de dollar or. Ces devises auraient ete vendues a l'United Works Co. Ltd. pour les besoins du comite VM de Bangkok.

TAWEESIM, ex-officier de l'armee saimoise, actuellement membre de l'organisation des veterand de guerre. Agent de VU HUU BINH. En fin janvier 1940, THAWEESIN a ete envoye par BINH pour acheter a PITSANULOKE un stock d'armes japonaises.

CHOEUR BOUN SAKOUN Lieutenant du Bauruot - ex-membre du mouvement Seri-Thai. Arrete par la police siamoise pour avoir amene de Cholburi six cents carabines americaines pour les ceder au P.C.C. de Petriu.

#### FICHE

Date: Juin 1949
OBJET: TRAFIQUANTS AMERICAINS EN THAILANDE

James W. THOMPSON, ex-Colonel de 1'0.S.S. au Siam. Charge de liaison aupres des guerillas Seri-Thaies, en contact permanent avec PRIDI, TIENG SERRIKHAN et autres chefs, favorisa a la liberation le camouflage des armes americaines parachutees (reservoir de ses futurs trafics) au lieu d'en tenter le rassemblement entre les mains des allies ou du Gouvernement siamois. En relations

etroites

SECURITY : SECRET

etroites et interessees avec les leaders V.M., K.I., L.I., avec les republicains indonesiens (notamment MARAMIS, ex-ministre des Finances de la Republique Indonesienne considere alors par les Hollandais comme le specialiste du trafic d'opium). Compte de solides amities aupres de membres influents du Gouvernement PHIBUN et de l'administration siamoise.

WESTER: Ex-officier 0.S.S. au Siam. Actuellement directeur a Bangkok de la Societe "Internationale Engineering" s'occupe de commerce clandestin d'armes sur une grande echelle. En relations intimes avec les Seri-Theies. Aurait ete contacte par TRAN VAN HAI pour procurer aux V.M. un Dakota et deux avions plus legers se serait declare en mesure de fournir un Dakota et 2 Beecherafts WESTER dit "WEBE" etait en contact avec HIRE, arrete a Singapour pour trafic d'armes. Fait partie de la bande GRIGWARE (voir plus loin.).

L.A. LEWIS: Directeur de l'agence de Bangkok de la Willam Hunt and Co. Fed. Inc. Marchand d'avions. En excellents termes avec THOMPSON, en relations d'affaires avec WESTER, MARAMIS, ISHAK MAHDI.

#### Stocks d'armes aux Philippines:

Les trafiquents d'armes du S.E.A. et de Chine tirent la plus grande partie des armes revendues aux differents mouvements revolutionnaires asiatiques de l'important reservoir qui semblent etre les Philippines.

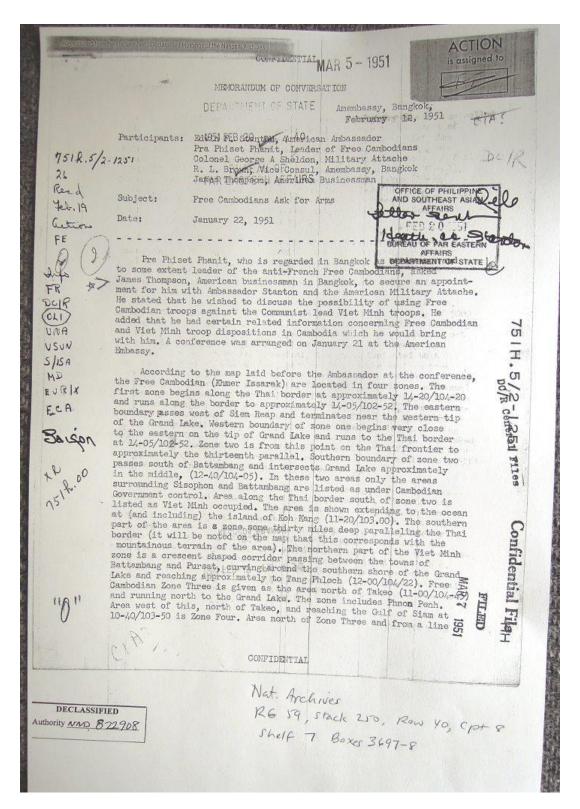
Deux bandes, celles des Philippins TINIO et SORIANO trusteraient tout le trafic d'armes dans ce pays. Au moment de la ces deux individus en acheterent aux Americains d'importants stocks, qu'ils grossirent encore par la suite, a bas prix, en soudayant les personnes chargees par le Gouvernement Americain de la liquidation des prises de guerre.

Ces reserves sont reparties dans un grand nombre de cachettes disseminees dans des iles inhabitees. L'activite de ces deux bandes n'est guere dissimulee car elles jouissent de la complicite ou tout au moins de la tolerance de nombreux membres de la police ou de hauts personnages politiques.

#### Trafiquants d'armes aux Philippines:

MARTIN TINIO: beau-frere de l'ambassadeur des Philippines a Rome. Sa bande, qui est de loin la plus importante, dispose de tres gros moyens (bateaux, avoins), commande et recoit des armes des U.S.A. De nombreux americains en font partie.

TINIO



Memo showing that JT set up an important meeting for a rebel leader with the US Embassy in Bangkok, after JT officially left service in US intelligence. (See line 3.)

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approximately fifteen miles west of the Mekong is given as area controlled exclusively bh the Cambodian (non-Issarak) government. Area east of these zones to the Laos and Vietnam borders are given as Viet Minh controlled. Substantial areas around Fhnom Penh and Battambang are listed as under Cambodian government control, as are the towns of Pailin (12-49/102-36), Fursat (12/37-103-50), Kampong Chnan (12-15/103-40), Kampong Speu (11-27/104/31), Kampot (10-36/104-11), Takeo (10-59/104-46), Soai Rieng (11-05/105-48), Frey Veng (11-28/104-50), Kompong Cham (12-00/105-28), Kratie (12-30/106-01), Stung Treng (13-31/105-58). Frincipal islands along the Cambodian cost, including Koh Kong and Phu Quoc, are listed as Viet Minh area.

According to Pra Phiset, Issarak troops in Zones One and Two number some 1000 men, well armed with automatic weapons. Weapons are American as, he says, are most weapons in the general area. He said that he could raise a force of 4000 if he could equip them. Arms have been acquired primarily through dealers in Thailand and paid for from taxes collected in the area. He stated that the Free Cambodian had to pay about three times the listed factory price for the material. In Zones Three and Four Pra Phiset said he could raise an army of 5000 if they could be equipped. He was more vague as to the number of troops now there, saying there were perhaps 700 or 800. These troops are not well armed. He could not give any figures on Viet Minh troops in territory shown as under their control, though he indicated that they were present in some number, particularly in the eastern area bordering Viet Nam. The zone along the Thai border and extending along and beyond Grand Lake was used by the Viet Minh primarily as a channel for transporting arms to Cochin China. These arms came originally from the general Bangkok area, were transported to Chantaburi, thence over-land across the border and carried to southern Viet Nam. An alternate route was by small boats, moving along the island chain and landing on the coast, from which point the arms were carried inland. When asked if this traffic was still continuing he stated that the Wiet Minh were now getting ample supplies from the north and China and that arms traffic along the previous routes was no longer necessary.

Pra Phiset proposed that the United States supply his Issaraks with arms as a counter force opposing the Communists. He said they would welcome American instructors, military leaders, etc. The Free Cambodians, he said, had cooperated with the Viet Minh at first as both were anti-French and aiming toward independence. Now, however they have realized that the Viet Minh was Communist controlled and that there was a danger that they would take over the whole of Cambodia. In this case Vietnamese domination would be substituted for French. Ambassador Stanton suggested that if the United States followed the proposal we might simply be supplying arms to an anti-government faction and fostering a Cambodian civil war. Fra Phiset replied that there was

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-3-

very little chance of this as his group had very close liaison with the Cambodian government and that both were nationalist and englous for Cambodian independence. He claimed that if there was any actual antagonism the Cambodian Government would not be occupying unmolested the large zone in northern Cambodia which was devoid of French troops. The Ambassador suggested that if the close liaison existed it might be possible for the Free Cambodians to send an emissary to the King of Cambodia or one of his ministers asking them to request officially, though perhaps confidentially, that the United States furnish arms to the Essaraks. Pra Phiset did not view this suggestion with enthusiasm, stating that any such proposal would be scotched by the French who still retain actual control of the Cambodian government. He indicated further that he had no confidence in the ability or courage of the present Cambodian government and that he would like to keep it out of their hands entirely. He agreed in the end that it might be possible to send a secret emissary to Phnom Penh to make the proposal to the King or his ministers but he was obviously reluctant to adopt this procedure. Throughout his talk he stressed that the Cambodians want independence, that the French will not give it to them, that the French control the government in Planom Penh, and that the only possibility for obtaining independence rests with the armed anti-French Kssaraks.

Comment: Pre Phiset, like all Asiatic nationalists, is more concerned with the removal of European colonial powers than with possible Communist domination at a future date. Consequently he talked mainly of Cambodian independence and did not go in detail into ways and means for combatting the Vietminh if given arms. He did mention the possibility of pinching off the Vietmine controlled cor idor along the Thai border. There seems little doubt, however, that Cambodians of all political complexion are becoming increasingly alarmed over the advance of the Vietnamese and are genuinely afraid of Vietnamese control of their country. Other political considerations aside, therefore, a potential of armed anti-Vietminh resistance undoubtedly exists among the Issarak group in Cambodia. In this connection it is worth remembering that Southeast Asia mationalist groups will look for support where they can find it, and that there is a very real danger that Communist controlled powers will offer this support in an effort to pull them into the Communist camps and to gain control of indigenous nationalist movements. The Communists have used this tactic with success among the Laos and other groups.

RX B R L Brown

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## US State Department Confidential Newsletter Describing Thai/Malaysian Border Situation in 1967

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300	4. Lower House of Parliament Concludes Routine 3				
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blessings of the superpowers is necessary to any settlement. Only the Eastern Sun (June 26) made an outright plea for direct talks between the Arab nations and Israel. Some English and Chinese language newspapers, weighing further the impact of the Chinese H-bomb test, regarded the explosion as having been a major influence in bringing about US-USSR talks (Straits Echo, Kwang Wah, Sin Chew).

#### 2. Thai Border Still a Serious Problem (UNCLASSIFIED)

New incidents along the Thai-Malaysia border drew response from the Straits Echo, Straits Times and Utusan Melayu. Warning that the situation remains serious until the terrorists are wiped out, the English language papers called for stronger measures by both countries to hunt down the communist bands. Utusan Melayu cast its comments slightly differently and, while also warning of the border danger, said that capture by the Thais of a communist Chinese regular in a recent operation (according to the editorial writer) proved that the Chinese have directly supported the insurgents.

#### 3. Muhammad Ali: Judges Split on First Round (UNCLASSIFIED)

While news coverage of the sentence passed by a Houston court on Muhammad Ali (Cassius Clay) was general, only two editorial writers commented on the trial. The English language Straits Times (June 22) called the trial fair and the sentence reflective of the need to uphold the law. The newspaper, however, noted that it was but the first round

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### US State Department Memos and Documents Describing Search Efforts and Aftermath

Silv. GARDNER, CARTON, DOUGLAS, CHILGREN & WAUD FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING ARTHUR D MILGREN MORRISON WAUD JAMES A VELDE ROBERT F. GRAHAM LAURENCE A. CARTON HENRY A GARDNER ALFRED T. CARTON ANTHONY L. MICHEL COUNSEL CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603 AREA CODE 312 726-2452 CABLE-GARCAR JOHN K. NOTZ, JR.
GORDON LANG, JR.
JOE A. SUTHERLAND
DALE PARK, JR.
THOMAS W. JAMES
THOMAS A. KILLOREN
W. F. GRIENENBERGER
JOHN A. BROSS, JR.
JOHN F. BEGGAN GORDON H. SMITH LLOYD W. BOWERS ROBERT A. GARDNER, JR. WILLIAM J. NEALON RAY GARRETT, JR. PETER H. MERLIN JOSEPH P. CARR JAMES J. MCCLURE, JR. JOHN J. CLERKIN THOMAS ARTHUR WILLIAM L. MORRISON April 17, 1967 Honorable William P. Bundy Department of State Washington, D. C. 20520 Dear Bill: I talked with Mr. Burke of your office this morning and asked him to send the following message to Jansen and Charles Sheffield in Bangkok: "HENRY THOMPSON AND DOUGLASES SENDING PETER VANDER HURK TO BANGKOK IN BELIEF HE MAY BE HELPFUL IN THOMPSON SEARCH. ARRIVES PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT ONE AT ONE A.M. THURSDAY. HAS LETTERS FROM DOUGLAS." I told him I did not intend that anyone should meet Vander Hurk but I was particularly anxious that Charles Sheffield know of his arriving early Thursday. For your information and Mr. Burke's I enclose copies of my letters to Mr. Hannah and Jansen. I might say Vander Hurk's fee, transportation and expenses, including those of his secretary traveling with him, are paid. Elinor and I spent several hours with him Friday evening and Saturday morning. He is an extraordinary person and may be helpful. He has worked on many cases of missing persons. I believe he has lived in Thailand and in Singapore years ago, and talks some Thai. I am not exactly enthusiastic about introducing into the situation anyone whose methods are those of "extra sensory perception." But I do believe he can work with people and that he is a man of good will. There are DECLASSIFIED Authority NND 20 104

risks in everything, and I am taking such risk as there is of any unsatisfactory experience in sending Vander Hurk to Bangkok. Three weeks have passed and no trace; and, as I said in my letters enclosed, it is immensely important to the family that every avenue of hope be explored. Actually I am hopeful Vander Hurk will make a useful contribution.

Elinor and I are most appreciative of your understanding interest and assistance.

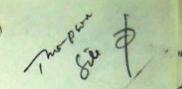
Very sincerely,

Jim Douglan

JHD/RCK Enclosures

## Memorandum

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TO

EA - Mr. William P. Bundy

DATE: April 20, 1967

FROM

BA/MS - Maurice Bean

SUBJECT:

Thompson Disappearance - Status Report

- 1. Thompson is still missing and no new hard information has been developed concerning the circumstances of his disappearance or his present whereabouts.
- 2. A Malaysian CID investigation is underway and is being directed by Perak State Assistant Police Commissioner Singh. A Thai Silk Company official (Charles Sheffield) and a Richard Noove have been assisting in the investigation and search.
- 3. Michael Vermount (who had earlier phoned the Lings claiming to have knowledge concerning Thompson) has now written to Dr. Ling upbraiding him for having brought the police into the matter and "trying to upset the boat." The letter implies that Ling and Vermount are directly involved in Thompson's disappearance and instructs the Lings to get out of Singapore and Malaysia within a week from the date of the letter. The letter was postmarked Singapore and was in double envelopes, the inner envelope bearing an uncancelled Thai stamp and no return address other than the word "Bangkok".
- 4. Dr. Ling recalls he has once talked to Vermount and has provided a partial description of him. Malaysian place records have produced no information on Vermount and expressed doubt as to the existence of a person by that name. Nevertheless, the CID is following up on this lead.

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 20104



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EMBASSY

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bangkok, Thailand

ratito of Thorn

May 8, 1967

SECRET

The Honorable
William P. Bundy
Assistant Secretary
Department of State

Dear Bill:

Although we have been exchanging telegrams at a rapid rate with regard to Jim Thompson, the case has now reached a point where I thought it might be useful to summarize its status as it seems to us here. This might be particularly useful in view of the forthcoming arrival of Mrs. Douglas and Henry Thompson.

The first thing to be said is that as seen from Bangkok there is virtually no prospect of solution. After several weeks of organized search of the jungle by the Malaysian police and after Mr. Noone's careful expedition, there seems to be every reason to accept his judgment that Jim was not lost in the jungle. Of course, no such conclusion can be drawn absolutely and I assume the Malaysian authorities will continue to be alert to any possible clues leading back to the jungle.

The sequel, however, has been to focus everyone's attention on the search for other explanations. This, of course, can lead to all kinds of intriguing speculation but as far as we can tell none of it is founded on anything more solid than romance. This is not to say that Jim was not the victim of some devious political or personal conspiracy, but only that so far there is no evidence of such. Mr. Vander Hurk's effort falls into this general category. I can easily understand the motives of the Douglas' in hiring Vander Hurk for this purpose and I certainly could not say that Vander Hurk's theory is wrong but it is only a theory totally unsupported by evidence. It has, of

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course, attracted considerable attention. You will recall a telegram about Mrs. Maxine North who cabled Singapore to make contact with Vander Hurk. She did finally make contact with him here in Bangkok and spent the better part of two or three days with him. She accepted his theory and further embroidered it to suggest that Jim had been taken either to Cambodia or China for the purpose of brainwashing him to trot himout for political use on some convenient occasion such as the one-day truce which will occur on Buddha's birthday, May 23.

Incidentally, when Maxine laid out her theory to me, even before having met Vander Hurk, she led off by saying that she was in complete agreement with General Black which leads me to a comment on his performance. Ed Black is an old friend of mine with a lot of ideas, energy and empathy and he has exerted himself mightily to be helpful because of his friendship with Jim Thompson. However, he is inclined to be something of a "romantic" with an inclination to act on the basis of creative speculation. This may help to explain some of the rather revealing remarks that have appeared in telegrams from both Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Indeed, there has been almost no limit to the number and kinds of extrasensory mediums in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore who have offered their help. Similarly, there are countless friends both old and new of Jim Thompson who are willing to offer a theory.

The only lead that I know of which at this moment is even slightly substantial (and that may be over stating it) is the contact in Singapore with Mrs. Leon Soh. Noone was of the opinion that this contact should be followed up and at his suggestion we offered to send Ed Black to meet her in Kuala Lumpur. Despite what I said in an earlier paragraph, we offered Black as the sugar to entice Mrs. Leon Soh away from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur. She countered by suggesting Hong Kong. This we all regard as a blatant "come-on". Accordingly, we now plan to substitute Noone for Black and

SECRET

#### SECRET

- 3 -

offered again to make the contact in Kuala Lumpur. If she will not do that, she will have worn out her bona fides as a legitimate lead as far as I am concerned.

The Thai CID has been making low-key inquiries partly on their own and partly at the request of the Malaysians. So far they have uncovered nothing. We have been in contact with all of the appropriate people in the Thai police and the Prime Minister himself asked the police for a report which we understand has now been prepared. We will obtain a copy.

Apart from the more fascinating question of what happened to Jim, we have a less romantic but perhaps more substantive problem with respect to his estate. This was the reason for a telegram I sent day before yesterday designed to alert the Douglas' before they come here. There is still no sign of a new Will. The only Will to be found is the old one leaving Jim's house and property in Bangkok to the Siam Society. This Will was cancelled by Jim but the Siam Society still has a signed copy. We have encouraged Charles Sheffield, Jim's manager in Thai Silk, to follow up with Jim's lawyer, former Prime Minister Seni Pramoj, to determine whether Jim left a power of attorney. If he did, then this would affect the legal situation considerably since it would give the holder of the power of attorney the power to control the estate once Jim is declared legally dead. In the meantime, however, the close relatives could request the appointment of a conservator.

Throughout the whole affair there has been a problem of management and coordination because of the fact that at least three countries in Southeast Asia are involved. The investigation of the disappearance itself has, of course, centered at Kuala Lumpur. We in the Embassy in Bangkok, however, have participated in certain aspects of the investigation and have sought to assist Sheffield in certain of the legal and administrative aspects. The Thai authorities, of course, have had only a peripheral interest in the investigation since the disappearance occurred in Malaysia. They

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- 4 -

have been helpful but their principal interest will naturally focus on what happens to the estate. This is the question which I expect will consume more time in the future. I think it is very fortunate that Mrs. Douglas and Henry Thompson are coming to Bangkok at this time. It would be most helpful to have the closest relatives and possible heirs here to make decisions as they are required. It will provide a very useful single point for us to deal with in coordinating all of the aspects of the case.

I realize that this letter probably does not tell you anything you did not already know, but I thought it might be useful to have a brief birdseye summary of matters as they stand today.

Took posticularly anxious that Charles Sheffield know of

denotes the later account tener with the frace;

and transferring their the extension engines which be bride for

CAPPEN, IN THOMPSON CO. M.

MANUAL AT ONE A. A

yes setters to Mr. Namesh and Jennes

the tering early Thursday.

Sincerely,

For your information and Mr. Sethers I suchers outles

Norman B. Hannah

A CHARLES THE PERSENTERS!

SECRET

GARDNER, CARTON, DOUGLAS, CHILGREN & WAUD

JAMES H. DOUGLAS
ARTHUR D. CHILGREN
MORRISON WAUD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60603
JAMES A. VELDE
ROBERT F. GRAHAM
LAURENCE A. CARTON
GORDON H. SMITH
LLOYD W. BOWERS

HENRY A GARDNER
ALFRED T. CARTON
ANTHONY L. MICHEL
COUNSEL
DALE PARK, JR.

THOMAS W. JAMES
THOMAS A. KILLOREN
W. F. GRIENENBERGER
JOHN A. BROSS, JR.
JOHN F. BEGGAN
JAMES G. CARR
GEORGE C. MCKANN

September 9, 1967

Honorable William P. Bundy Department of State Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Bill:

ROBERT A. GARDNER, JR.

JAMES J. MCCLURE, JR.
JOHN J. CLERKIN
THOMAS ARTHUR
WILLIAM L. MORRISON
JOHN K. NOTZ, JR.
GORDON LANG, JR.
JOE A. SUTHERLAND

RAY GARRETT, JR.

I hope you and Mary have had a good time on Martha's Vineyard. It's a pleasant place. I wish Elinor and I had been there during August. We expect to spend the last two weeks of this month at West Chop, and we're hoping for fine weather.

The Thompson family, as has probably come to your attention, suffered a new tragedy only two weeks ago when Katherine Thompson Wood was murdered in her house just outside of Wilmington, Delaware.

I haven't written or called you or Burke as there has been nothing to talk about with regard to Jim Thompson's disappearance, but do so now to ask assurance that interest and effort are still going into the search for Jim and for clues of any sort by the appropriate authorities.

Earlier in the summer Mrs. Mangskau, who was with Jim at the Lings in Cameron Highlands, spent a weekend with us, and later Bob Jantzen and his sons were with us. New ideas and explanations come from various directions, but none lends itself to a rational theory.

Honorable William P. Bundy September 9, 1967 Page Two

We have asked Charles Sheffield, who is in charge of the company, to work out an arrangement with Udom Yenrudi, a Thai who was a good friend of Jim's, who was associated with Time-Life, and who checked out well through Bob Jantzen, to review the case, encourage continued effort, and undertake such investigation as he can. When I know that Udom will undertake the assignment I will give you and the Ambassador more information on him in asking that the Embassy assure him of its cooperation and any help that might be useful in securing the cooperation of Thai authorities. Would it be appropriate for you to instruct our acting Ambassador to express continuing serious interest in the Thompson case and to ask for a report as to what has been done since last contact in the way of investigation? I hope that such a request might go to Laos as well as to Malaysia and Thailand. My principal interest this time is in a report from General Chamrat, commanding the Thai police which includes the criminal investigations division.

On the chance that for some bizarre reason Jim was kidnapped by Communists and taken into Cambodia, might the Australian Embassy in Bangkok inquire of the Cambodian Government whether anything is known of Jim Thompson as a prisoner anywhere? In the case of Gus Hertz, although entirely different from what we are dealing with, information to the effect that he was alive was apparently made available through the Cambodian Government.

Warm regards and best wishes.

Very sincerely

JHD/RCK

September 13, 1967

a much earlier stage, after one of our telephone Mr. James Douglas Mr. James Douglas Gardner, Carton, Douglas, Chilgren & Waud First National Bank Building Chicago, Illinois 60603 alster Son Sans. He followed up

menutive we have not pessed the

Dear Jiministry. The approach was couched in terms of

our interest in obt Let me start by extending my deepest sympathy to Elinor and to you on Mrs. Wood's tragic death. I feel badly that I had not written you sooner. Two senseless tragedies in one family is a heavy load indeed.

since his dis Turning to your letter, it was most timely in view of the fact that Len Unger, who, as you know, is Ambas-sador-designate to Bangkok, is here in the Department in the final stages of briefings in preparation for a September 19 departure for Bangkok. Len has already reviewed our complete file on Jim Thompson and I have given him a copy of your latest letter to take with him. He will have all the facts at hand and I am, therefore, able to provide you with the assurance you ask: namely, that interest and effort are still going into the search for Jim and that any clues that develop will be promptly reported and will be followed up by the officials on the uspot. However, having some knowledge of the velocity at

Within the past two weeks, I have also gone over the whole matter at great length with Bob Jantzen, who was back on leave. I think you know that both he and his wife were devoted to Jim, and I can assure you that his account left no doubt that they had done everything possible both on the professional circuit and through such private arrangements as the Britisher and others.

from Jim's. There has Actually, we have continued to receive various reports from the field on the matter of Jim's disappearance over the past months, but because these reports were essentially

negative we have not passed them on to you. The most recent arrived in late July in the form of a communication from the Australian Ambassador in Phnom Penh. At a much earlier stage, after one of our telephone conversations, we had asked the Australians to raise the matter with the Cambodian Government in a low-key manner. Subsequently their Ambassador discussed Jim's disappearance informally with Prime Minister Son Sann. He followed up this demarche with a note of confirmation to the Cambodian Foreign Ministry. The approach was couched in terms of our interest in obtaining from the Cambodians any information they might have regarding Jim's whereabouts. The only reply received in response to this approach came in July when the Cambodians routinely reported that they had no record that Jim had entered Cambodia in the interval since his disappearance. This, of course, was information generated from a routine check of immigration records and it would have been surprising, indeed, had it been anything but a negative report.

I personally feel that it would have been counterproductive to raise with the Cambodians the possibility of
abduction, et al. Given the present nature of their relations with the Thai and ourselves, this would not have been
helpful at all. The low-key approach was worth making,
however, because they have now been officially informed of
our interest, while at the same time we have avoided any
indirect suggestion that their territory had been illegally
used. However, having some knowledge of the velocity at
which rumors circulate in that part of the world, I feel
certain that the Cambodians at some official level must be
aware of the same stories that inspired our approach through
the Australians and will be on the lookout for such activity without having had their attention forcibly focussed
on it.

The case of Gus Hertz is obviously quite different from Jim's. There has never, of course, been any secret as to just who his captors were. As far as the Cambodian involvement in the affair is concerned, Sihanouk acted as a channel to the Viet Cong in response to a personal

request made to him by the Hertz family. In view of the very flimsy nature of the report on Jim's abduction, it would seem to me that Sihanouk would react negatively to any approach, either personal or official, that his country was being used by Communists from Malaysia or Thailand.

TON DOUBLAS, CHILDREN & WAUD NATE OF BRIDE

Like you, I continue to hope that some information will come to light regarding Jim's whereabouts. I can readily understand the terrible uncertainty with which the family has had to live since his disappearance. Rest assured that the matter is not forgotten by our people in the area. I believe you can count on them to report and follow up any leads which come to light and to provide what assistance they can to any agents you may designate.

Department of State Wa With warm regards,520

Dear Bill:

Sincerely,

I hope you and Mary have had a good time on Martha's Vineyard. It's a pleasant place. I wish Elinor and I had been there William P. Bundy We expect to spend the last two weeks of this month at West Chop, and we're hoping for fine weather.

The Thompson family, as has probably come to your attention, suffered a new tragedy only two weeks ago when Katherine Thompson Wood was murdered in her house just outside of Wilmington, Delaware.

I haven't written or called you or Burke as there has been nothing to talk about with regard to Jim Thompson's disappearance, but do so now to ask assurance that interest and effort are still going into the search for Jim and for clues of any sort by the appropriate authorities.

Earlier in the summer Mrs. Mangskau, who was with Jim at the Lings in Cameron Highlands, spent a weekend with us, and later Bob Jantzen and his sons were with us. New ideas and explanations come from various directions, but none lends itself to a rational

EA: JRBurke/WPBundy:mk



EMBASSY

OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Discussed in John Barke agreed writing to Mrs. 6. would needlessly open with channel - info in V. letter,

Bangkok, February 7, 1968 too thin to pass

action taken,

RWD

Teb-13 1968

#### CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable
William P. Bundy
Assistant Secretary of State
for East Asian & Pacific Affairs
Department of State

Dear Bill:

I had a visit yesterday from Dr. and Mrs. Earl Galleher of Baltimore. Mrs. Galleher is Jim Thompson's niece. They had just been on a visit to Malaysia and the Cameron Highlands and were passing through Bangkok and came by primarily to say thank you for the efforts that had been made on Jim's behalf.

One of the things that emerged from the conversation was that Mrs. Galleher had had an exchange of correspondence with Sihanouk at the end of last year (since Bill Trimble was to some extent involved, you may already be aware of this). From my meeting with the Gallehers and from other sources I have gathered that she wrote to Sihanouk early in November and on December 19th received a reply, dated December 3. She called Sihanouk's attention to Jim's disappearance, possible Communist involvement, and asked for his help with any information. It seems Sihanouk then wrote to Nguyen Huu Tho (NLF), passing on Mrs. Galleher's request on the chance the latter might have some pertinent information, and he eventually got a negative response from Tho in a communication dated January 26 dealing mostly with the Hertz case. In his reply to Mrs. Galleher (which preceded Tho's reply to him), Sihanouk suggested that the Thai Patriotic Front or perhaps the Malaysian Resistance Movement might be able to provide her with some information.

Coincident with the Galleher visit, the communications relating to the return of the remains of Gustav Hertz reached us. These brought to light the text of the brief, negative reply which Tho made to Sihanouk's letter, namely that he believed that Mrs. Galleher had been misled by people whose intentions were probably bad. The paragraph concerning Mrs. Galleher is reported

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#### CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

in Bangkok's 9847, which also calls attention to the reproductions of her original letter to Sihanouk and his letter to Nguyen Huu Tho which are carried in the December 1967 issue of Le Sangkum. As for Sihanouk's response to Mrs. Galleher, my information comes directly from her. Whether or not she is aware of the specific text concerning her as contained in Tho's 26 January letter to Sihanouk I don't know; this came to my attention some hours after she had left here. You may want to pass this little bit of additional information on to her, even though it adds little and certainly provides no comfort. I also don't know, incidentally, whether she is aware of her letter and Sihanouk's letter to Tho having been published for all the world to read in Le Sangkum.

One other point I would like to have made to Mrs. Galleher is that Col. Niem of the Thai police, who has been in charge of the Thompson case here, and San Tak Singh, Chief of Police of Ipoh, who has been in charge of the investigation in Malaysia, have in fact already been in contact. Let me explain: Mrs. Galleher talked with Singh in Malaysia and learned that he and Niem were acquainted through joint attendance in a course (the FBI?) and she thought something useful might come of their being put in touch.

Aside from these specifics, I reviewed with the Gallehers various aspects of Jim's mysterious disappearance and the investigations that have followed. I tried to assure Mrs. Galleher in every way I knew how that we would do whatever we could ourselves and would press the Thai police to do anything they could to shed further light on what happened to Jim. It is clear that she feels that as long as his disappearance remains unexplained, some stain attaches to his name. Her theory is that he either is off on some political mission of high importance (Paul "Red" Fay apparently once told her (in 1963) that her uncle was one of the "most important Americans working in Southeast Asia"), or has run afoul of criminal elements who have done away with him. She dismisses totally any possibility of his being lost in the jungle or of any kind of accidental death. With me she pressed particularly her concern over possible Thai indifference or desire to cover up and urged that I try to make sure this does not happen. Needless to say, I gave her whatever assurances I could and I am sure you know that we are leaving no stone unturned, but for some time now we have not found any stones.

Sincerely,

Leonard Unger

P.S. The Galleher address is: Dr. and Mrs. Earl P. Galleher, 17 Meadow Road, Baltimore, Md., 21212

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EMBASSY OF THE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bangkok, Thailand

October 28, 1968

Mr. Bundy has seence with enclosures

MR. GODLEY

The Honorable
William P. Bundy
Assistant Secretary of State
for East Asian & Pacific Affairs
Department of State

Dear Bill:

Prince Ajavadis Diskul, President of the Siam Society called on me a few days after his return from the United States to thank me for the International Visitor grant which I had made to him on behalf of the State Department, to report on his very successful trip to the United States and to register his displeasure with the Council of the Siam Society which had opposed Henry Thompson's application to be named administrator of Jim Thompson's estate in Thailand. At the time of his visit to me Prince Ajavadis produced the original letter which Jim Thompson had written on March 25, 1964 informing the Siam Society that he was revoking the will in which he had bequeathed all of his property in Thailand to the Siam Society (Tab a). Prince Ajavadis informed me of his meeting with the Thompson family in Washington and of the family's wish to maintain Jim's house and art collection in Bangkok as a memorial to him. The family are of the opinion that a foundation should be established for this purpose in which the Siam Society should have an interested and active part. Prince Ajavadis felt sure that when he informed the Council members of the intention and plans of the Thompson family regarding Jim's estate that objections to joint administration of the estate would be overcome and that the Council's petition to the Civil Court would be withdrawn.

On September 2nd Prince Ajavadis called a meeting of the Council to explain in detail his discussions with the Thompson family (Tab b). He invited the members to a luncheon meeting with Henry Thompson III on September 9 so that they might hear from him of the Thompson family plans for Jim's property (Tab c). He also produced the original copy of Jim's letter revoking his will.

Henry Thompson III met with the Siam Society Council members at luncheon on September 9 and at a formal Council meeting September 10th (Tab d). His assurance that the Thompson family intended to keep the house and collection intact and in Thailand had effect on the members, several of whom feared that the collection would be sold abroad. Henry Thompson proposed that a foundation be formed and that the Siam Society assist in the administration of the foundation. He suggested that the Civil Court be asked to appoint him and the President of the Siam Society as joint administrators of the estate. The Council voted to accept this proposal in principle but decided that the approval of a General Meeting of the Siam Society membership would be necessary under the Society's regulations.

A Special General Meeting of the Siam Society membership was held on October 8th attended by forty members (Tab e). Prince Ajavadis told the members of his discussion with the Thompson family in Washington and of the meetings with Henry Thompson III in Bangkok. He reported that the Council had agreed on a plan of joint administration of the Thompson estate in Thailand with the Thompson family and proposed that the Statement which has been prepared for submission to the Civil Court (Tab f) be approved by the membership. A vote was taken and there was unaminous approval of the Council's proposal. As the Civil Court had originally suggested that joint administrators be appointed, I am sure that this will be done when the petition again comes before the Civil Court in mid-November.

When the original of Jim Thompson's letter revoking his will was produced and when assurance was given by Henry Thompson III that Jim's house and collection would remain intact in Bangkok, opposition on the part of the Thai members of the Council seemed to vanish. The instigator of the opposition is a Dutch national employed by the Siam Society.

Jim Thompson's house is now operating much as it was when he was here and I am sure that he would find little change if he walked in tomorrow. An American bachelor lives in the house and the rent which he pays provides a substantial income for its upkeep. The servants remain and the house is open to the public two mornings a week. Income from entry contributions goes to the School for the Blind and is a substantial part of its revenue. After the foundation is formed and a committee named to administer the estate, the house may be open several more days a week to raise additional funds for the Blind School as well as for other charities.

The visit of Henry Thompson III, the generous attitude of the Thompson family and the delicate maneuvering of Prince Ajavadis Diskul, have brought about an amicable agreement which should hold for the next six years at least. Until Jim Thompson returns or is determined to be deceased by the courts the foundation will administer his estate and maintain his house as in the past. The eventual owner of this property must be determined by the courts but I believe that after the foundation has been in operation for six years this administration will continue and that ownership will finally be vested in the foundation.

Knowing of your interest in Jim Thompson, his estate in Thailand and his family in the United States, I have described this situation in some detail. If other points require clarification please let me know.

Lan water have

Yours.

Leonard Unger

o thank you very such

Enclosures: Tabs a, b, c, d, e and f.

อุตสาหกรรมไหมไทย จำกัด



THE THAI SILK CO., LTD. 311/6-7 ถนนสุววงศ์ พระนคร

โทรศัพท์ 32341 คู้ ป.ณ. 906 โทรเฉษย์อ "ใทยชิดค์ กรุงเทพา"

Our ref. 1953

25 March 1964

Mom Chao Ajavadis Diskul Secretary of The Siam Society c/o Bangkok Bank of Commerce, Ltd. Surawongse, Road, Bangkok

Dear Prince Ajavadis:

I am writing you this letter both as a personal and as an official letter.

I am writing personally to thank you very much for all you have tried to do to correct a very grievous situation which occurred between The Department of Fine Arts and myself.

I am writing you officially as Secretary of The Siam Society to inform you that I have decided to revoke my will in which I bequeathed all my property in Thailand to The Siam Society.

I will give you as briefly as possible my reasons for doing this. First I had built up a collection which was fairly complete and representative of all the periods of Thai Art. I had arranged with a committee for The School for the Blind to open my collection of art two days a week so that visitors to and residents of Bangkok might see a small but well presented collection of Thai Art, and at the same time to raise much needed funds for a very worthy charity.

So that future visitors and residents of Bangkok might continue to see this collection after my death, I decided the best thing to do was to make The Siam Society the beneficiary in my will. In the meantime, a member of The Department of Fine Arts decided that there were pieces of sculpture in my collection that they wanted, and with the help of the police, demanded them from me. This broke up the collection as such, and fearing that they might continue their official depradations, I sold all my collection of Thai Bhuddist Sculpture, only keeping a few Kremer and Burmese pieces of sculpture, so that the house would not look too bare on open house days.

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(to be continued)

ษัท อุตสาหกรรมไหมไทย จำกัด



THE THAI SILK CO., LTD. 311/6-7 ถนนสุววงศ์ พระนคร

โกรคัพท์ 32341 คู้ ป.ณ. 906 โทรเฉษย์อ "ไทยซีลค์ กรุงเทพา"

Mom Chao Ajavadis Diskul (Our ref. 1953)

Page 2

You kindly interceded and the member of The Department of Fine Arts promised to return the pieces of sculpture on condition that I registered my house as a museum with The Department of Fine Arts. This I did well over a year ago, but the said person has used continuous delaying tactics, and it is now plain to see that he has no intention of keeping his original promise.

Now as the collection of Thai art no longer exists and my house being more or less a house again, all my original intentions for the future of the house are gone.

I realize now that if irresponsible government officials can accomplish what they did, and be allowed to get away with breaking up such a collection which gave pleasure to hundreds of visitors annually, and has supplied a very worthy institution with much needed funds, that I must take a firm stand myself and set an example so that in the future, such bold steps of this kind will be discouraged.

After this very ungraceful gesture on my part, I feel that I must beg the council of The Siam Society to accept my resignation as a council member, as I feel I can no longer be of any use to them.

With deepest regrets about this most unfortunate situation.

Very Sincerely Yours,

James H.W. Thompson

cc: M.R. Seni Pramoth

JHWT/pp

MINUTES OF THE 608th MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SIAM SOCIETY
HELD AT THE SOCIETY'S HOME, 131 ASOKE ROAD, BANGKAPI, BANGKOK
Monday, 2nd September 1968

#### PRESENT

- 1. H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul, President
- 2. Lt. General Phya Salvidhan Nidhes, Vice President
- 3. Luang Thavil Sethpanijkarn, Honorary Secretary
- 4. Mr. S. Gønge, Honorary Treasurer
- 5. Dr. Lawrence Sternstein, Hon. Editor of the Journal of the Siam Society
- 6. H.E. Monsieur A.W. Kønigsfeldt, Hon. Editor of the Natural History
  Bulletin
- 7. Mr. Ariyant Manjikul
- 8. H.H. Prince Sukhuma Paribatra
- 9. H.S.H. Prince Piyarangsit Rangsit
- 10. Dr. Prasert na Nagara
- 11. H.E. Monsieur Leonard Unger
- 12. Mr. Pracha Guna Kasem
- 13. Mr. J.J. Boeles, Hon. Librarian and Director of the Research Centre

#### UNABLE TO ATTEND

- 1. M.R. Pimsai Amranand, Assistant Honorary Secretary
- 2. H.S.H. Prince Subhadradis Diskul, Chairman of the Exchange Committee
- 3. Phya Anuman Rajadhon
- 4. Mr. Kraisri Nimmanahaeminda
- 5. Professor Ouay Ketusinh M.D.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 5.15 p.m.

- 1. The President expressed his deep regret in announcing the death of the late Mr. Edwin F. Stanton, former American Ambassador to Thailand and corresponding member of the Society. The President said that he had sent a telegram of condolence to Mrs. Stanton, in the name of the Council and at his request members of the Council rose and paid tribute to the late Mr.Edwin F.Stanton by observing silence for one minute.
- The President proposed the re-election of Mr. Kenneth J. MacCormac who had returned to Thailand, as a member of the Council. The proposal was approved.

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As a result of this unanimous vote the President concluded that the floor had fully approved the proposals made by the Council as specified at this Special General Meeting. The President thanked the members for their support, while confirming that the Siam Society will cooperate with the relatives of Mr. James H.W. Thompson.

Mr. Riley proposed that members of the Siam Society thank their president and Mr. Henry B. Thompson III for this most amicable settlement. This proposal was seconded unanimously by members present.

Mr. W. Klausner asked the President whether it was the intention that the collection of Mr. James H.W. Thompson be kept intact, to which the President replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Sanya Pholprasit questioned the President with regard to point four of the arrangement whether it was the intention that all the property of Mr. James H.W. Thompson would be brought into the Foundation. The President replied that only the property of Mr. James H.W. Thompson in Thailand would be brought into the Foundation and added that the family would like to maintain the house as a museum.

There being no further questions, the President adjourned the meeting at 3.50 p.m. after having thanked members for their presence.

Attached: 2 statements

Honorary Secretary

President

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TAB O

## ยามสมาคม

ในพระบรมราชูปถัมภ์ ทู้ ป.ณ. ๒๕ โทร. ๙๓๔๔๓ ••• ซอย ๒• (อโศก) ถนนสุขุมวิท พระนคร ประเทศไทย



## THE SIAM SOCIETY

Under Royal Patronage

P. O. BOX 65. TEL. 914401

131 Lane 21. (Asoka) Sukhumvit Road

Ranckok. Thailand

#### INVITATION

to

Members of the Council to a luncheon

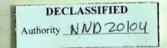
H.S.H. Prince Ajavadis Diskul President of the Siam Society, has the honour to invite all Council members of the Siam Society to a luncheon to be given by him in the Erawan Hotel on Monday, 9th September 1968, at 12.15 hours, in order to give members of the Council the opportunity to make their acquaintance with Mr. Henry B. Thompson III from New York.

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## TRANSLATION OF PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT TO THE COURT

- The two parties of the case mutually agree to be joint administrator of the property of Mr. James H.W. Thompson, the absent person.
- 2. The detailed terms and conditions regarding the joint administration shall be mutually agreed by the two parties later on. Should there be any disagreement, one of the two parties may submit an application to the Court to decide.
- In case the joint administration shall incur any debts or financial loss the Siam Society Under Royal Patronage shall not be responsible.
- 4. The two parties of the case agree to waive their right to claim the Court fee and the lawyer fee against each other.



## เยามสมาคม

ในพระบรมราชูปถับภ์ ตู้ ป.ณ. ๒๕ โทร. ๘๓๕๔๐๓ ๑๓๑ ฃ๐๒ ๒๐ (อโสก) ถนนสุจุบริท พระนคร ประเทศไทย



## THE SIAM SOCIETY

Under Royal Patronage

P. O. BOX 65. TEL. 914401

131 Lane 21. (Asoka) Sukhumvit Road

Bangkok. Thailand-

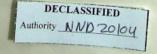
An arrangement to administer the estate of Mr. James H.W. Thompson in Thailand between the representative of the Siam Society under Royal Patronage and Mr. Henry B. Thompson III representing Mr. James H.W. Thompson's relatives.

I It was decided that a committee of 5 members shall be formed to administer the estate, the Chairman of which shall be the representative of the Siam Society. The other four members shall be appointed by the representatives of Mr. H.B. Thompson III representing Mr. James H.W. Thompson's relatives and by the Siam Society, each appointing two members.

Three members will form a quorum. An Honorary Secretary of the committee shall be appointed by the Chairman.

#### II The duty of the committee shall be:

- 1. To look after and maintain the property of Mr. James H.W. Thompson in Thailand:
- 2. To collect rents from the house and dividend income from his investments in the Thai Silk Co. Ltd to pay for the maintenance and improvement of the house and grounds as described in Title deeds 5184, 5185, 5190, 5191 situated at Kasemsan Lane 2, Tambol Wang Mai, Amphur Patumwan, Bangkok.
- 3. To make an inventory of the property of Mr. James H.W. Thompson's property in Thailand as specified in paragraph 2 as required by section 57 of the Civil and Commercial Code.
- 4. Other duty or duties as may be expedient to safeguard the interest of Mr. James H.W. Thompson or the legatee of the heir.

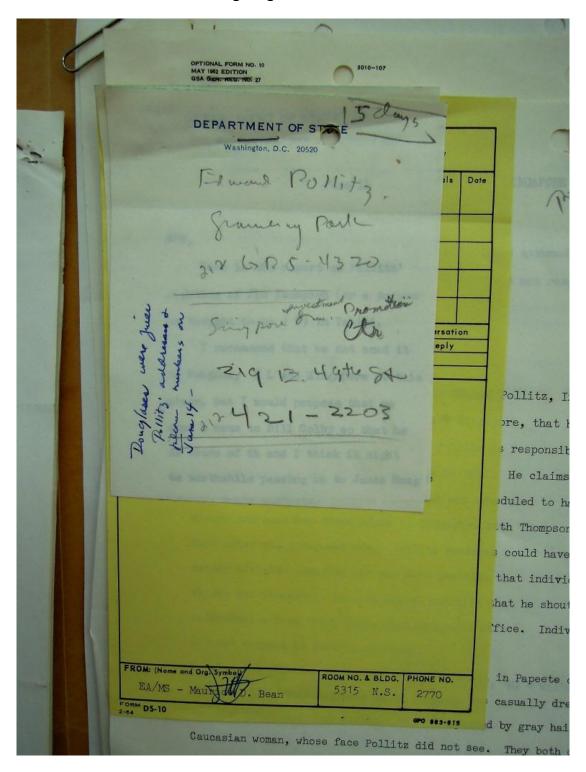


- 5. The decisions of the Committee shall be made by a majority or plurality of votes as the case may be.
- 6. In order to eliminate any future conflict which may arise between the two parties, upon proof of death of Mr. James H.W. Thompson or when the death is presumed, the parties of the contract shall agree to establish a foundation in memory of Mr. James H.W. Thompson. The parties to the case shall agree to vest ownership of the property as specified in article 1 of this contract to such foundation.
- 7. Where expenses for maintaining and operating the house exceed the income from rents and dividends, the relatives of Mr. James H.W. Thompson will make up the difference.

Bangkok 8th October 1968

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**Pollitz Sighting Documents: US DoS** 



WPB,

Authority NWD 20104

Here is the report on Pollitz' sighting of Jim Thompson (or a person he thought to be J T) in Tahiti.

Rep

I recommend that we not send it
to Bangkok, K L and Singapore at this
stage, but I would propose that we
send a memo to Bill Colby so that he
is aware of it and I think it might
be worthwhile passing on to James Doug

arter Mr. Bundy Interars.

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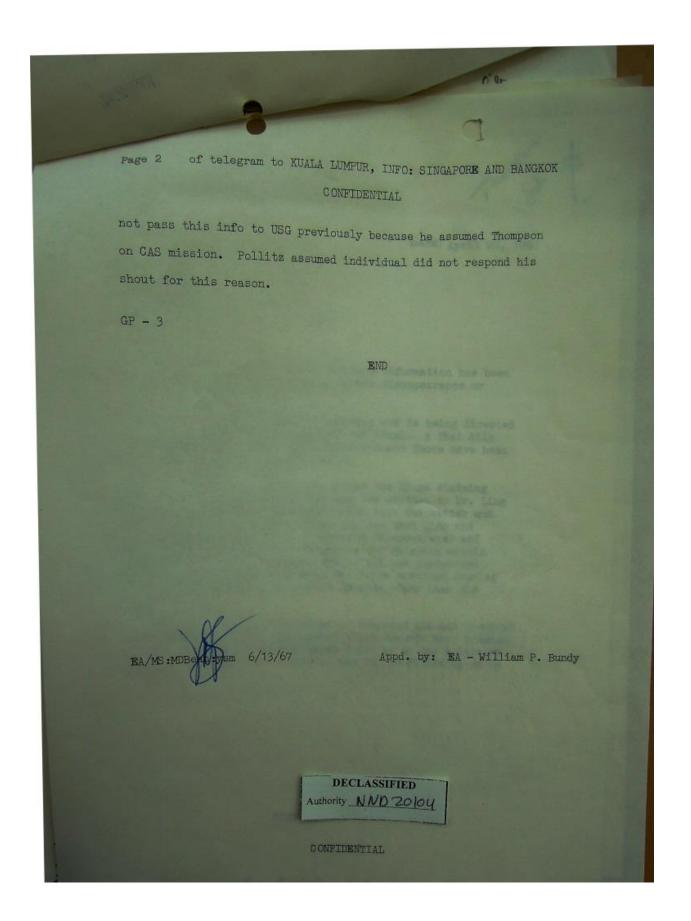
Subject: Thompson Disappearance

1. On June 12 DeptOff was informed by Edward Pollitz, International Executive Service Corps member assigned Singapore, that he believed he had seen Jim Thompson in Tahiti. Pollitz is responsible American citizen who has done commendable work in IESC. He claims to have known Thompson for number of years and was scheduled to have had dinner and business discussions in Singapore with Thompson few days after his disappearance. Pollitz realizes could have been matter mistaken identity but was most positive that individual he saw was Thompson. Pollitz was so positive that he shouted to individual across hotel lobby from manager's office. Individual did not respond to Pollitz greeting.

- 2. Claimed sighting took place at Hotel Tahiti in Papeete on May 27. Individual believed to be Thompson was casually dressed in sport shirt and gray slacks. Was accompanied by gray haired Caucasian woman, whose face Pollitz did not see. They both drove away from hotel in black sedan.
- 3. Pollitz related details this sighting to Bob Pritcher and Forrest Duff, Pan Am employees in Tahiti. Pollitz states he did

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## Annex 11 Information from the FBI on the JT Case

This annex provides information excerpted from a large CD provided to me by the FBI in response to my FOIA request on the JT case. This CD had three files:

- 1. A cover letter. This is included below. It describes the fact that of 126 pages on the case in FBI possession, only 99 were released to me. Reasons are given, via checked boxes, which relate to the national security of the US or to the privacy of individuals.
- 2. A very lengthy investigation of JT conducted by the FBI in 1953. This extremely detailed investigation officially was apparently prompted by JT applying to work for a regional UN body in Thailand. However, the investigation was so thorough, long and doubtless expensive that it raises questions about the true motivations of the investigation. JK in his biography of JT states that JT was "suspected of un-American activities" (pp. 122-5). But the investigation in fact seems to have been in three phases: first, the beginning of a full investigation prompted by JT applying for a UN job; second, a change to a 90 day quick "name check" investigation since it was recognized that JT only applied for a short, less than three months UN assignment; and then third, on the request of the US Department of State Office of Security, a "full field investigation." This extended to Thailand and numerous US states and agencies, including the House Un-American Affairs Committee, various Federal and local law enforcement agencies, JT's relatives and associates, etc. All results were that JT was a loyal US citizen with no criminal record or other issues. One interviewee stated that even JT's divorce was, he thought, caused by his wife's unfaithfulness, not by JT. Only a few pages of this 46 page file are provided here, since this period is so far from the disappearance.
- 3. A file of 54 pages from the period immediately after the JT disappearance. All of these pages are presented here, since they concern the reaction to the disappearance and in some cases give a bit of insight into the search. There is also a cover page which lists the reasons why some pages were not provided to me by the FBI.

It seems likely, although it is not clear, that my initial request to the FBI was broken into two parts by the agency, namely the JT case and the Katharine Wood case, and that the FBI response re Wood was sent first and separately from this JT CD. Hence my appeal to the FBI after initially receiving the short Wood response was apparently ignored, since more material was in train and was eventually sent re JT.

Happy reading!

#### **COVER LETTER FROM FBI**



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D.C. 20535

September 30, 2014

MR. LLEWELLYN TOULMIN 13108 HUTCHINSON WAY SILVER SPRING, MD 20906

FOIPA Request No.: 1258919-000

Subject: THOMPSON, JAMES HARRISON WILSON

#### Dear Mr. Toulmin:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Title 5, United States Code, Section SS2. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Explanation of Exemptions:

	on 562	Section 652a	
☑ (b)(1)	(b)(7)(A)	(d)(5)	
(b)(2)	(b)(7)(B)	(I)(2)	
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	(b)(7)(D)	(k)(2)	
	(b)(7)(E)	(k)(3)	
	(b)(7)(F)	(k)(4)	
(b)(4)	(b)(8)	(k)(5)	
(b)(5)	(b)(9)	(k)(6)	
√ (b)(5)		(k)(7)	
128 pages were reviewe	ed and 99 pages are being release	ed.	
Documents were loca agency(les) [OGA].	ated which originated with, or contr	sined information concerning, other G	overnment
	g with OGA(s). The FBI will corre	or review and direct response to you. spond with you regarding this informat	tion when the
In accordance with	standard CDI neartice and numeros	t to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and Pri	unes Act
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of your subject's name of	n any watch lists.		

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S. C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the Explanation of Exemptions.

You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's eFOIA portal at <a href="http://www.justice.gow/oip/efoia-portal.html">http://www.justice.gow/oip/efoia-portal.html</a>. Your appeal must be received by OIP within sixty (50) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,

David M. Hardy Section Chief Record/Information Dissemination Section Records Management Division

#### Enclosures (2)

The enclosed documents contained in file 138-HQ-1197 and 163-HQ-18347 represent the first interim release of information responsive to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

As previously indicated, document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(les) [OGA]. We are consulting with those OGAs and are awaiting their response. Due to the fact that our office has processed all other information currently in our possession, your request is being administratively closed at this time, pending the completion of the outstanding consultation by our office. The FBI will correspond with you regarding those documents when the consultation is finished.

To minimize costs to both you and the FBI, duplicate copies of the same document were not processed.

Regarding your fee waiver request, for less than 250 pages it is unnecessary to adjudicate your fee waiver because there are no assessable fees. This material is being released to you at no charge.

#### EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS

#### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

#### SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding.
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service he release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

FBI/DOJ

# EXERPTED DOCUMENTS FROM THE FIRST FBI FILE, THE 1953 BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION INTO JT

Common abbreviations in the two files:

SA = special agent

SAC = special agent in charge

WFO = Washington Field Office (of the FBI)

Legat = legal attache (of the FBI, usually stationed overseas in a US embassy)

FPC = foreign police cooperation

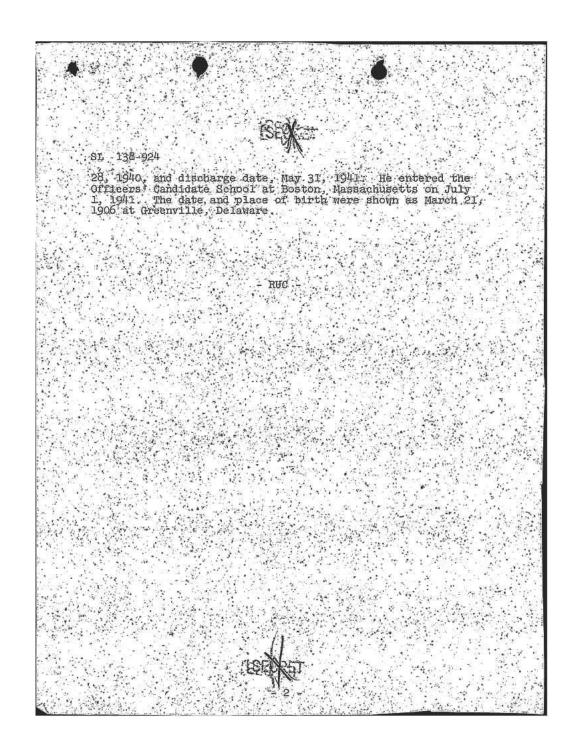
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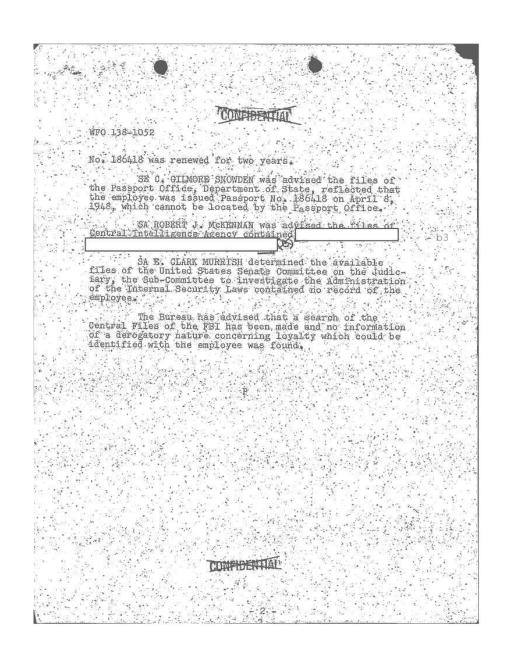
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CERTIFICATION  E. The original copy must be signed by the person assess item 1 on this form.  I certify that the above information is correct and complete to the beat of my knowledge and belief.	Hengr R. Pail A. S. Alexa A Jelix du P	eard 1 under =	IIIa Nova l'a farttills M.J Julungton Del.	1920 to present 1920 to Present
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SPACE FOR CONTINUING AMSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS (Show item numbers to which answers apply. Attach a separate sheet if there is not enough space here.)  CERTIFICATION  The original copy must be signed by the person named is item 1 on this form.  I certify that the above information is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.	ARRESTS (Include all arrests	s and fines other than r	The state of the s	
CERTIFICATION  E. The original copy must be signed by the person named in item 1 on this form.  I certify that the above information is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.	CHARGE	DATE	PLACE WHERE ARRESTED	DISPOSITION
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The original copy must be signed by the person named in item 1 on this form.  I certify that the above information is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.	6.00			
I certify that the above information is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.	1. 10°	*		** <u>*</u>
1 d 10 m	6.00	CERT	IFICATION	***
Date Sign original ly)	TE: The original copy must be	signed by the person as	amed in item 1 on this form.	*

FORM NO. 1 This case originated at	BUREAU	[SEX RET,	VESTIGATION C	
REPORT MADE AT	DATE WHEN MADE	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE	REPORT MADE BY	. )
St. Louis, Mo.	6-19-53	6-16-53	SE H. JACK LEMON	WO
JAMES HARRISON WI	ISON THOMPS	ON	CHARACTER OF CASE LOYALTY OF THE EMPLOY OF THE UNITED NATIONS OTHER PUBLIC INTERNATIONS - TR	S AND
and 32075056, in as Major by reason set out. No dero	dicate JAME U.S. Army 1 n of demobi	S HARRISON WI 0-3-41 to 8-3 lization. Av	Dept. of the Army, SII ISON THOMPSON, ASNS O -46. Honorably dische ailable enlisted serve n 3-21-06 at Greenvil	-45125 arged ice le,Del
REFERENCE: WFO &	r. Louis, M	irector 6-4-5 ALL IN HERE PATE L	FORHATION CONTAINED	7
Adjutant General War II Unit, Depa THOMPSON, Army Se	s Office, M rtment of t rial Number a Second Li	Hilitary Perso he Army, for s 0-451253 an eutenant in t	record on file at the nnel Records Center, JAMES HARRISON WILSON d 32-75056, indicates	World that
1941 and entered Virginia. He was	honorably	released from	me date at Fort Monro active duty on Augus	e, t 3
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Note redaction above re CIA.

Code "138" refers to investigation of the loyalty of employees of foreign organizations.

	CONFIDE	TIAL T		
FORM D5-438 2-8-50%	3. 1 TATA PART (1977)	NT OF STATE		Ri
CASE CLASSIFICATION		TITLE		<u> </u>
Executive Order 1	.0422	THOMPSON,	James Harrison Wils	son
CONTROL SYMBOL	REPORTING AGENT		FIELD OFFICE	
	Lyle C. Himm Admin. Offic	el, er, PSO	Bangkok, Thail	Land
WHERE INVESTIGATED	DATE OF REPORT		PERIOD COVERED	
Bangkok, Thailand	August 17, 1	953	August 1,3,4,5,8	14, 1953
SYMOPSIS: >				
interviews have di name check with CI	Thailand, without sclosed no deroga	adverse information	s available to Ameration resulting. In concerning subject, was negative.	PerconsT
STATUS:	AFF	<u>.                                    </u>		
Closed - Bangkok	· ALI/INF	ORMATION CONTAIN	NED	
PREDICATION:	FOIA-	339, 763	exps	
This investigation Memorandum dated J Operations Staff,	ulv 15. 1953 from	the Chief Phys	contained in an Of sical Security and	fice Foreign
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The subject's name	was checked again	est the records	available to the 0 53 with negative r	onsular esults.
The subject's name Section, American	was checked again Embassy, Bangkok,	on August 5, 19	available to the P 53 with negative r	olitical esults.
The subject's name	was checked again	with ne	gative results <sub>b1</sub>	ner DO
A name check was c August 14, 1953 wi	ompleted by the Cl	ID. Department o	f Police, Bangkok,	
gentleman used to p	fork for ECAFE in	Thailand during	information: "The 1945, 1946 and 19 anymore, but has h	LA from
	138		9	
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10 - SY Washington 1 - RSHFE, Manila 1 - File		Aaron S. B	PROTECTION OF THE PROPERTY OF	aires,a.i
	COMP			GPO 83.3

CID = criminal investigation division ECAFE = U.N. Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (now ESCAP)

Investigation James Harrison Wilson THOMPSON

#### CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Edward M. Lind, Manager of Pan American World Alrways and President of the American Association of Thailand, Bangkok, was interviewed by the Reporting Officer on August 5, 1953, and stated that he had known the subject very well for a period of approximately Tive years, and that at no time during this period had he ever questioned the subject's loyalty or character. Mr. Lind stated that the subject's present business was with the Thai Silk Company, Itd., which business had been operating smoothly and with good commercial relations so far as he was aware.

Mr. George Weckerly, Assistant Manager of the Bank of America; Bangkok, who was interviewed on August 5, 1953 stated that the subject has had an account at the Bank of America for some time and that he has known him personally for approximately three years. Mr. Veckerly regards the subject as honorable in both his personal and official activities and stated that he has never heard any derogatory information concerning the subject.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JURICE

0-9 a

To: COMMUNICATIONS SECTION. DECEMBER 4, 1953 AIRTEL RECORDS Transmit the following message to: SAC, BOSTON (MAIL)

JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON. LEWN-IR. THIS CASE IS BEING INVESTIGATED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 10422. APPLICANT WAS BORN MARCH 21, 1906, GREENVILLE, DELAWARE. HE ATTENDED ST. PAUL'S HIGH SCHOOL IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, 1919-1924. PARENTS NAMES UNKNOWN. RECORDS PRINCETON UNIVERSITY, PRINCETON, N.J., REFLECT HIS PARENT OR GUARDIAN AS HENRY B. THOMPSON, WHO MAY BE AN OLDER BROTHER AS APPLICANT LISTS A BROTHER AS HENRY B. THOMPSON ON HIS PERSONNEL AND IDENTIFICATION FORM, CONDUCT CREDIT AND CRIMINAL AT CONCORD, N.H. SUBMIT REPORT TO REACH BUREAU BY DECEMBER 14, 1953, ATTENTION OF THE INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, SPECIAL INQUIRY SECTION.

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### FULL CONTENTS OF THE SECOND FBI FILE, ON THE 1967+ REACTION TO THE JT DISAPPEARANCE (SOME PAGES AND PARTS OF PAGES REDACTED BY THE FBI)

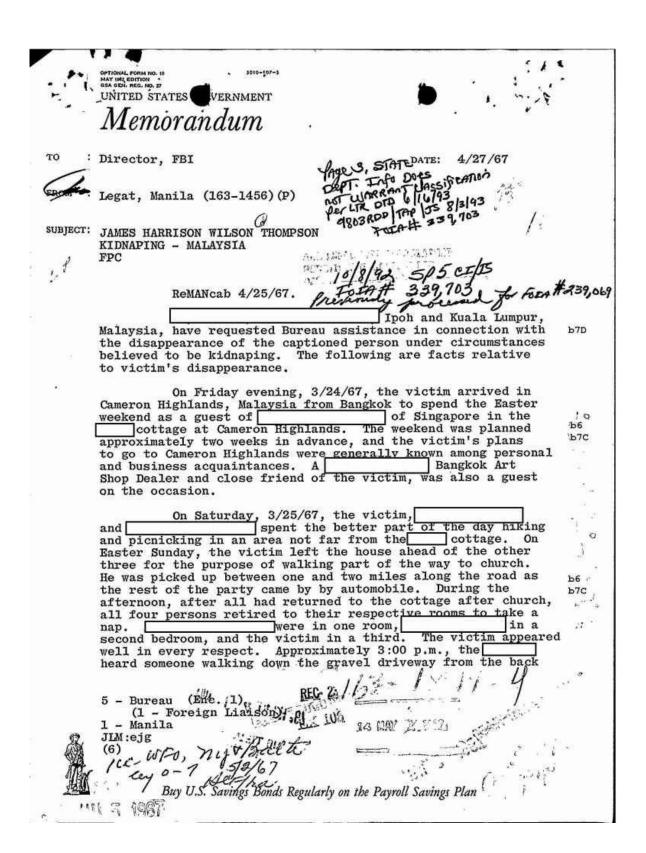
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1258919-0
Total Deleted Page(s) = 27
Page 5 - Referral/Consult;
Page 6 - Referral/Consult;
Page 16 ~ b6; b7C;
Page 17 ~ b6; b7C;
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Page 76 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 83 * Referral/Consult;
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Page 86 ~ Referral/Consult;
Page 91 ~ Referral/Consult;
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NB: Code 163 near the bottom of the page refers to foreign police cooperation, as the type of investigation or effort.

AIRGRA/	M M CABLEGRAM - RADIO - TELETYP	Tavel Trotter Tele. Room Holmes Gandy
PAGE TWO	FROM LEGAT MANILA NO. 41	
APRIL 2	1 LAST. NEW BENEFICIARY IS	]
6	FORMER BENEFICIARY  S THAI ESTATE WAS SIAM SOCIETY, BANGKOK ()  TERVIEW OF FOLLOWING REQUESTED:	OF   b6
	MES DOUGLAS, BROTHER-IN-LAW, FORMER DEPUTY UNDERSE	CRETARY
OF DEFE	WSE.	
CONDUCT	NRY B. THOMPSON, BROTHER, BOX 54, REISTERSTOWN, MAR CTIM HOLDS US PASSPORT X462289 ISSUED AT BANGKOK. INTERVIEWS AND FOLLOW ANY LOGICAL LEADS DEVELOPED. BEING POUCHED.	
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RECEIVED	D: 11:02 PM RM	
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FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)	i
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FBI	<b>[</b> ]
Date: 4/28/67	
Transmit the following in	
(Type in plaintext or code)	I.
Via AIRTEL (Priority)	
-1	Ŀг-
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI	
FROM: SAC, WFO (163-1404) (P)	SECTION
<b>A</b>	
JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON -	Relio
	0/0
ReBulet dated 4/26/67, recabs from Manila da	ated
4/25/67.	
Enclosed are six copies of LHM dated as about	ve in
captioned matter. Info copies designated for Baltimo: Chicago for possible assistance.	re and
This memo represents investigation by SA	
On 4/27/67	ь6
Passport Office, Department of State, advised that the office would interpose no objection to Bureau's furnis	
enclosed passport information to the Malaysian author:	
	C.
WFO obtaining prior passport information con cerning subject from retired files and also checking to	a- with
State for copies of pertinent cables from Kuala Lumpu:	r and
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4 103 0000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000	where
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SY (6) 21 month scholarge 19 co	with
AIRTEL REFSON	=1001M B
AlT Page 14EP1 5/2/67 EX-113 REC 18 /63	- 1837 173
Alt Page 14EP1 5/2/67 EX-113 PEC 28 /63	
	=
PER LIR OTO LOTTUS PER LIR OTO L	
20JUL 5 (267) 7054 # 334,705	.5
Approved: Sent M PerM Per	1



MAN 163-1456 of the house in the direction of the road in front of the house. Neither looked out to see who was passing, but both assumed it was the victim, who had decided to go for a walk, because he perhaps had been unable to sleep. After the naps, the remaining three had tea together and remarked that the victim had indeed taken a long walk, but were not yet concerned that he had not returned. However, when he did not return in time for cocktails before dinner at approximately 7:00 p.m., called the police, fearing that the victim had perhaps taken ill, had a heart attack, or had some similar trouble. b6
The local police searched the area where the victim would logically have gone, and where he had been known to frequent in the past, but without result. The search continued until it was too dark to make further effort. On Monday, 3/27/67, the search was continued, and on Tuesday, 3/28/67, an organized search of the jungle was begun with a number of police, military units, boy scouts, volunteers, and aborigines taking part. The search was considered to have been well conducted. Several U.S. military experts and prominent Americans arrived on the scene to help direct and oversee the effort. No trace was found, and even though a reward of \$3,000 was offered for information, no one has come forward. Radio broadcasts to the natives in the jungle insured that all avenues of possible help were covered. Police contacted all criminal and communist gangs in Malaysia and received assurance that none of these groups had any knowledge pertinent to victim's disappearance. date, no request for ransom has been received. The only activity in the case has been three anonymous letters mailed in Singapore to the police and the U.S. Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, b7c alleging in summary that is not telling everything he knows. Interview of have been without significant result. have received reports from two sources -- a reliable one in Bangkok, and from personnel at the hotel in Cameron Highlands, where the victim is not known to have ever frequented or stayed -- that the victim is homosexual. of Thai Silk Co. Limited, Bangkok, the silk firm owned by the victim, was and with a U. S. interviewed at length by

- 2 -

#### MAN 163-1456

Embassy officer observing. A copy of that statement was furnished Legat, and is enclosed herewith to the Bureau. Instant statement was furnished Legat with the understanding that it not be disseminated outside the FBI or U. S. law enforcement agencies necessary to any investigation conducted in the U. S.

As the Bureau was advised by cable 4/25/67, victim's brother-in-law, JAMES DOUGLAS. former Deputy Undersecretary of Defence, arranged for	<b>b</b> 6
to go to Cameron Highlands and endeavor to investigate the victim's disappearance. On 4/24/67 he announce that the victim had been abducted by 14 armed communists, and taken by truck to either a plane or boat and thence to Cambodia	ь7с ed
U. S. Embassy, Kuala Lumpur, has been sending daily cable summary reports of developments in this case. It is suggested the file of these reports maintained at Dept. of State, Washington, D. C., be reviewed.	
All of victim's personal effects including wallet, cigarettes, etc., were left behind in the cottage when the victim left his room. From these effects, it has been determined he held Delaware Driver's License #171784, and U. S. Passport Z 462289, issued at U. S. Embassy, Bangkok. Victim is age 61, and has relatives in the U. S.	3
It may be of interest to observe that	b6
who is currently	ь7С ь7D
is in charge of this case and has full responsibility for its direction.	עום
has requested that the following relatives of the victim be interviewed for the purpose of developing background relative to the victim for factors which may relate to his disappearance. Of particular interest would be verification of victim's homosexuality, according to	ъ7р
JAMES DOUGLAS, brother-in-law, former Deputy Under-secretary of Defence, whereabouts not known.	ъ6 ъ7С
	2,0
HENRY B. THOMPSON, brother, Box 54, Reisterstown, Md.	n.

MAN	163-1456	3					la:	
vie	ws of the	above-	listed p	ersons,	sted that FBI may a ackground	gree tha	t simila	r S
fro	estigatio m known f relatives	state on in th facts or	d he would	ld appre which ma	lpful and ciate FB] y appear n develor	l conduct	ting any either	b b
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TELETYPE UNIT  MAY 8 1967  Mr. DeLoach  Mr. Wick  Mr. Wick  Mr. Callahan  Mr. Colrad  Mr. Callahan  Mr. Colrad  Mr. Felt  Mr. Callahan  Mr. Felt  Mr. Gale  Mr. Gale  Mr. Gale  Mr. Gale  Mr. Gale  Mr. Gale  Mr. Felt  Mr. Gale
JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON; FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION;
BUDED MAY TEN, SIXTY-SEVEN.
REFERENCE BUREAU LETTER, APRIL TWENTY-SIX,
SIXTY-SEVEN, NO COPY TO CHICAGO.
10
10
HENRY THOMPSON SP. REISTERSTOWN MARYLAND AND LAMES
HENRY THOMPSON, SR., REISTERSTOWN, MARYLAND, AND JAMES
DOUGLAS, STONEGATE ROAD, LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS, BROTHER-
IN-LAW OF HENRY THOMPSON, ARE THE TWO MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE
FAMILY MEMBERS CONCERNING INSTANT DISAPPEARANCE AND RECENT
ACTIVITIES OF CAPTIONED MISSING PERSON.
DENIES ANY FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THOMPSON'S RECENT
ACTIVITIES.
END PAGE ONE
Culled 5/8/67 + said as EX-103  Culled 5/8/67 + said REC 13 63 - 18347-5
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met sand already 20 REC 1363 - 18347-5
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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED 3 MAY 9 1967
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57 MAY 151967 DATE 13/4/83 BY 13/49 JHE WEB JONG
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PAGE TWO	
BALTIMORE, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, FURNISH	
SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION TO CHICAGO FOR INTER-	
VIEW OF DOUGLAS, INCLUDING ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION	S.
OBTAINED FROM HENRY THOMPSON, SR. END	
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cc ·	b7C

			5/2/67	
	AIRTEL	REGULAR MAIL	217	
	TO:	SAC, WFO	6.217	10
	FROM:	SAC, BALTIMORE (163-20	β) '	. · ·
	SUBJECT:	JAMES HARRISON WILSON FOREIGN POLICE COOPERA		
		Re Bureau letter to WF	0, 4/26/67.	
	worthwhill	HENRY B. THOMPSON, tro advised on 5/2/67, the le information concerning on 3/26/67, with the exc	g the disappeara	nce of his
	(i	THOMPSON stated a		
	the victi	m approximately three m	a friend of the onths ago in Ban	gkok. Mrs. b7c
		llegedly informed unknow	m sources that t	he victim
	appeared papers in	very apprehensive and in the Embassy vault, Bar	gkok, THOMPSON	stated he has
	not talks	ed withcond	erning the matte	r.
	LEADS:	8		
	MFO			
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51	2-Baltimo RDS:ddt (5)	ALL'INFORMATION CONTA HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 23 W RY	NOT RECORDE 18 MAY 3 196	, b6

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NACE.			(Priority)	Miss Gand	
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NB: "LHM" is "letterhead memorandum" in FBI parlance



### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Washington, D.C. May 3, 1967

> b6 b7C

#### JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

advised a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on April 28, 1967, that he had served at the U.S. Embassy at Bangkok, Thailand for two years between 1959 and 1961 and there met subject on a social basis. He described Mr. Thompson as a very prominent American in Bangkok concerning whom he had never heard anything derogatory whatsoever. He stated that Mr. Thompson greatly enjoyed living in Thailand and had a tremendous number of friends there. He stated that he could offer no reason for subject's disappearance aside from the possibility of kidnapping, noting that professional kidnappers had operated in the part of Malaysia where the subject was staying. He believed that such kidnappers had always operated against wealthy Chinese but not against Americans. He did not know anything concerning the subject's marital status and knew of no reason why the subject might have been kidnapped, except for the fact that he was a wealthy man as the manager of a flourishing silk business in Thailand.

Development (AID) advised that he had known Mr. Thompson byce socially from 1959 to November, 1966. He served with AID in Bangkok and worked for Mr. Thompson in his company for about three years.

This source recalled that the subject served in Thailand with the Office of Strategic Services toward the end of World War II. The subject decided to stay on in Thailand and after taking silk samples to the U.S., set up a company

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# JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

in Thailand in the silk industry, Thai Silk Company Limited, which became the major business of its kind in the country. The source described this company as a closed corporation of which Thompson was Managing Director but he did not know how much stock Thompson actually controlled himself. Thompson became extremely well known in Thailand and enjoyed the finest reputation there. He greatly developed the exportation of Thai silks and had such excellent outlets in the U.S. as Nieman Marcus of Dallas, Gump's of San Francisco and Saks of New York City.

described the subject as a man of 61 years of age, a shabby dresser, not interested in money **b6** b7C but undoubtedly wealthy and a "confirmed bachelor". He recalled learning from Thompson after he had known him for about a year that Thompson had been married to an American woman but divorced many years ago. He never heard of any children of this marriage.. The subject was an architect originally and lived alone. His home, which was the result of combining three Thai-style homes into one, was the showplace of Bangkok. Thompson was extremely interested in Thai art, culture and history and had the finest collection of Thai objets d'art in the world. He opened this home to the public on a regular basis, charged a fee for the tour and turned over all the funds so collected to a school for the blind in Thailand. Source advised that Thompson had willed his house and collection to the Siam Society. Mr. Thompson was known to have gall bladder trouble and some sort of stomach or intestinal trouble and required fairly frequent medical attention. Source stated that Thompson was certainly not the "Ugly American" type of individual who would have incurred the wrath of the Thai people.

by the Thai Royal Family about 1963 to 1964 and that Thompson was definitely in the good graces of the Thai Government as of November, 1966.

- 2 -

# JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

learned immediately of subject's	
disappearance through the press and has	
received numerous letters from friends in the area about	
the disappearance. He described the Cameron Highlands where	
Thompson was sojourning as a resort area where golf and hiking	
are the principal attractions. Thompson was extremely skilled	
in the ways of the jungle and it is inconceivable that he	
got lost; in any event, if he did, he would have been found be	
as the result of the extensive searching which took place.	
Thompson seldom carried any amount of money with him. Chinese	
kidnapping gangs have operated in that part of Malaysia in	
the past but have always concentrated their efforts on wealthy	
Chinese, not Americansfirst impression when he	
heard of the disappearance was that Thompson had been kidnapped.	
He has racked his brain since then trying to think of what	
motive there could have been for kidnapping or foul play	
against Thompson but can think of nothing. To	
knowledge. Thompson had no enemies; he had competitors, but	
the elimination of Thompson from an established business would	
achieve no useful business purpose. Revenge on the business	
plane also is not suggested; to knowledge. Nor	
does feel that this disappearance is connected with	
any romentic situation.	
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also related that	
do a good job and have a very effective intelligence network	8
stretching into the remote villages and namiets. he stated	C
that the police have apprehended some of the Chinese Kidnappers	
in Malaysia and also noted that generally such gangs turn the	
victim loose unharmed after a ransom is paid. He speculated	
that if Thompson had been kidnapped and bodily removed from the	
area, the possibility exists that the intense searching activity	
immediately following the disappearance could have panicked	
these responsible and they may have done away with him somehow.	
He noted that there has been widespread circularization in the	
area of reward offers for helpful information, apparently	
without success. He stated that the jungle is very thick in	
that part of the world making searching very difficult but the	
absence of vultures sustains the finding of no trace of the	
hody.	

He also stated that he knew whose guest Thompson was at Cameron Highlands, and noted that she is a murasian married to for Singapore and Malaysia.  In summary, stated that he knew nothing of a derogatory nature concerning the subject and doubted that investigation in the U.S. could cast much light on this tragic disappearance in view of Thompson's long residence in the Far Mast.	72 /5				
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# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Baltimore, Maryland

May 4, 1967

# JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

On May 1, 1967,	
advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), that James Harrison Wilson	
Thompson is and that he is the Managing Director of	
The Thai Silk Company Limited, Box 906, G.P.O., Bangkok, Thailand.   last saw Mr. Thompson in September,	b6
1966, while he was in the United States, and she also visited	b7C
him in January, 1966, in Bangkok. advised she is only aware that disappeared on March 26, 1967,	
while visiting with and	
at the summer home in Cameron Highlands. understood that Mr. Thompson took	
Highlands. understood that Mr. Thompson took a walk, alone, while and	
took a nap and that has not been seen or heard from	
since.	27
felt foul play was involved, in one	
way or another, because was a very active, healthy,	
man who knew a great deal about the jungle, and surrounding topography, further advising he was trained in jungle warfare	
and survival while serving with the United States Army, O.S.S	*b7C
advised Thompson was approximately	
5'9" tall, weighed approximately 155 pounds, had blue eyes	19
and brown (grey) hair. He was born on March 21, 1906, and	
served at length with the U. S. Army in Cambodia, Bangkok, and surrounding countries, during World War II.	
	92
stated Mr. Thompson was very successful in his business and that he was very well liked and	
respected by prominent individuals throughout the area.	
stated she could not think of anyone who would	b6
want to harm him, except perhaps the communists, who could possibly be upset with him because of his success and	ь7С
because of the success his employees in the Silk Company	
achieved. advised on May 3, 1967, that she	
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RE: JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

Silk Company, for the first time when she visited	
Bangkok in 1966. She stated that she never became acquainted	<b>b</b> 6
with him and has no opinion concerning him. She stated	ь7С
thought very highly of and considered him to	
be very honest, reliable, responsible and efficient.	
believed was in his early 40's and recalled reading that his home was	

On May 2, 1967, Henry B. Thompson, Box 87, Reisterstown, Maryland, advised a representative of the FBI that James Harrison Wilson Thompson, his brother, who is Managing Director of The Thai Silk Company, is in very good physical and mental condition and suffered from no mental abnormalities whatsoever.

Mr. Thompson stated his brother was active in his business, that he was very active socially, and knew a great many prominent, influential people. As far as he knew, his brother did not have any enemies, except perhaps the owner of the Star of Siam, a silk dress manufacturer. Mr. Thompson stated his brother informed him in September, 1966, while visiting in the United States, that the Star of Siam was very interested in expanding and acquiring his company, perhaps by devious means.

Mr. Thompson stated while his brother visited the United States during September, 1966, he stayed with their sister, Mrs. James H. Douglas, One Stone Gate, Lake Forrest, Illinois. Thompson visited his physician in Chicago, Illinois who treated him one or two years ago for amoebic dysentery. Thompson stated his brother informed him that he had a slight case of gall stones, however, the Doctor gave him a clean bill of health, suggesting he be treated for or operated on for gall stones by 1970.

Mr. Thompson further stated it was his feeling that his brother may have been kidnapped by communists of unknown origin for possibly unknown political reasons. He stated his brother knew several Lieutenants of Ho Chi Minh's, whom he met while serving with the underground in the area during World War II, however, he was sure he had not had contact with them for many years. Thompson stated his brother was a very staunch, loyal American.

# RE: JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

Mr. Thompson stated he could not offer any additional information concerning the disappearance or that may assist in locating his brother. Mr. Thompson further stated he was traveling to Bangkok on May 10, 1967.

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On 1	May 3. 1967. Mr	Thompson adv	ised	1
by him. Thom his brother in this mately 40 year	he Silk Company liable and effi pson stated he n Bangkok and h was employed. rs of age and t Thompson stat	cient and was met e does not kno He stated hat he was pos	considered ver in 1960 when h w how long pri was ap sibly from Cal	e visited or to proxi- ifornia,
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In Reply, Please Refer to File No. 163-553

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Chicago, Illinois May 8, 1967

# JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

On May 4, 1967, Mr. James Douglas, a member of the law firm Gardner, Carton, Douglas and Chilgren, 33 South Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois, advised that James Harrison Wilson Thompson was his wife's brother. He has known Thompson since about 1920. Thompson's father was in the textile business and Thompson grew up in this business. He later became an architect by profession and later became an artist. During World War II, Thompson served in the United States Office of Strategic Services.

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At the end of World War II, Thompson was in Bangkok, Thailand. He remained there and went into the silk business, selling and producing silk. His company was the first silk business to be established in Bangkok after World War II. He now has over one hundred competitors in the silk business in Thailand.

Mr. Douglas and his wife have always maintained a very close relationship with Thompson. They have corresponded by letters on a weekly basis. Thompson usually visited the Douglas family each summer. Mr. Douglas and his wife visited Thompson in Bangkok in 1958 at which time he, Mr. Douglas, was the secretary of the United States Air Force. They also visited Thompson in Bangkok in 1963 and 1966. Thompson has been very successful in the silk business and has accumulated considerable property and financial wealth. He has accumulated a collection of art objects. In about 1959, the Thailand Government seized three of Thompson's Buddha heads that Thompson had in his art collection. Thompson was not pleased about the seizure of these objects which were seized as examples of Thailand's national art. To Mr. Douglas' knowledge this is the only problem Thompson has had with the Thailand Government. He pointed out that the only situations he could think of that may have lead to Thompson's disappearance was the incident of the seizure of the Buddha heads or Thompson's competition as an outsider in the silk business with over one hundred competitors.

Thompson was well known and highly regarded in Bangkok by prominent people of Thailand and by officials of the United States

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#### JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

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Government. He entertained more prominent people than anyone in Bangkok. About one week before his disappearance, Thompson had completed a new office building that included rental office space in addition to space for a store. Thompson as an artist had designed much of his own silk products.

Thompson apparently was in excellent health but in the past had suffered from gallstones. Each year Thompson had a medical and dental check made in Chicago while visiting Mr. and Mrs. Douglas. Mr. Douglas had been in regular and recent contact with Thompson's medical doctor and this doctor according to Mr. Douglas knew of no health problems that Thompson had other than a history of gallstones. Mr. Douglas advised the doctor could furnish no additional pertinent information.

For years Thompson has frequently taken walks alone and would be gone for three or four hours at a time. While visiting the Douglas family he would often walk along the shore of Lake Michigan. In his opinion, Thompson was a very stable man and a man of complete integrity.

Mr. Douglas pointed out that Thompson was a close personal
friend of Brigadier General Edwin F. Black, Commander of the United
States Army in this area. He was also a close personal friend of
charge of this company's operations in the area. Mr. Thompson's is very close to Thompson and
would possibly have more personal knowledge of Thompson than anyone. According to Mr. Douglas, the United States officials and many people in Thailand report that Thompson had done more for Thailand than any other person.
Mr. Douglas had closely followed the developments of Thompson's disappearance through frequent contacts with the State Department in Washington, D. C. Mr. Douglas advised that he saw no reason for Mrs. Douglas or for Thompson's other relatives being contacted as he was in closer contact with the situation of the disappearance than anyone in the family. After Thompson's disappearance Mrs. Douglas was advised by a friend of the family that possibly could possibly be of
assistance in locating her brother. Mr. Douglas expressed a desire to obtain the services of they contacted an assistant to Senator Edward Brooke of Massachusetts and on the information obtained that had been of help to this assistant to Senator Brooke they made an appointment to visit
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JAMES. HARR	ISON WILSON	THOMPSON				
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him to ass	ist in this	matter. I	n Thailand		advised	
that Thomp	son had bee	en taken aga	inst his w	ill to Car	mbodia.	
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wante he was adv  arrived at a resort a  dealer.	d to go to ised not to On Friday has a vacation rea, accomplis an au	Cambodia bu o go to Camb oefore Easte of bungalow i banied by otherity con	odia. r Sunday, n Cameron cerning ar also were	March 26, Highlands and tobjects in the b	ational situ  1967, Thomp of Malaysia n old friend and is an a ungalow. On	son , rt
wante he was adv  arrived at a resort a  dealer. Easter Sun	d to go to ised not to On Friday has vacation rea, accomplis an auday about 3	Cambodia bu o go to Camb offere Easte o bungalow i panied by otherity con 3:00 PM afte	r Sunday, n Cameron cerning ar lalso were r the grou	March 26, Highlands and tobjects in the be p had had	1967, Thomp of Malaysia n old friend and is an a ungalow. On a picnic,	son , rt
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Mr. Douglas explained he had no additional information regarding Thompson's personal life or background which might lead to his whereabouts. He felt that Thompson was highly respected and well liked by those people around him. To his knowledge Thompson had no enemies.

- 3 -

Attached is a copy of an article made available by Mr. Douglas and identified by him as from the New York Times issue of April 29, 1967, captioned "Clues Are Sought On Lost American."

# **CLUES ARE SOUGHT** ON LOST AMERICAN

Friends Believe Thompson Was Abducted in Malaysia

Special to The New York Times

Special to The New York Time.

Annormal Thailand—Priends
and husiness associates of John
W. Thompson are plecing together evidence to suggest that
he is not lost in the Malaysian
jungle but has been abducted.
Mr. Thompson, a G-lycar-old
American who lived here and
who made a fortume solling
Thai allk, was last seen on the
afternoon of Sunday, March 26,
at a bungalow in the Cameron
Highlands of Malaysia, a resort
area.

at a bungalow in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia, a resort area.

An Intensive search—involving the Malaysian police, units of the British Army, close friends including Brig. Gen. Edwin F. Black of the United States Army and hundreds of volunters—has failed to find Mr. Thompson. Rewards offered for information about him now total \$12,000.

The police have worked on the theory that the American businessman went for a walk and got lost. Those who cavor the abduction theory believe that Mr. Thompson's was selzed by someone whom he had arranged to meet, or by that person's agents. They offer these points in support of that theory:

Mr. Thompson was a chain smoler, Yet he suposedly went for a walk leaving his eighrettes and lighter in the bongatow.

The missing man suffered from a gall-bladder allmont that caused frequent and severe spasms that "doubled him up in agony" according to a friend. "Jim would not under any circumstances have left the house for any length of time without taking his pills," a friend said. Yet the pills were left.

In body is not usually difficult to find in the jungic, Vultures gather above it. The tracking dogs used by the police are attracted by the amell.

Spasm Called Possible These points do not rule out.

Spasm Called Possible

are attracted by the amell.

Spasm Called Possible
These points do not rule out
the possibility that Mr. Thompson was acized with a spasm,
lest his footing and fell into a
cleft in the hills or over a ledge.
In many places the jungle is
impenetrable. Matays discovered only recently the wreckage of a United States Air
Force C-47 that crashed in the
jungle in 1947. The plans fell
only a few miles from a main
road. Yet it went undiscovered
for 20 years.

Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Connie Mangshau, an old friend, set
off from Penang for the Cameron Highlands on March 23 in
a taxi.

The taxi haited at a ferry. A
man appeared and spoke to the
driver. The driver stepped out
of the taxi, making way for the
newcomer. He explained that he
was the original driver's brocher
and that the deiver "has something to do teday, so I will
drive you."

The taxi drove on to Tappa,
a road junction at the foot of
the hills leading to the Highlands. Mrs. Mangslau noticed a
red warning light on the dushboard. The driver said the car
was overheated and drove it into
a garage. After inspection he
said that he could not nossibly a garage. After inspection he said that he could not possibly drive the car up the hills and suggested that Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Mangskau use a taxi standing nearby.

Two men were sitting in the other toxi in addition to the driver. Her some discussion—heat on Mrs. Mangskan's part—the two men got out and the visitors continued their trip to the Highlands. Neither thought much of the incident at the time. Friends wonder: Was it an abduction attempt that misfired?

abduction attempt that misfired?
On the Sunday afternoon that
Mr. Thompson disappeared, a
worker at the garage in Tappa
noticed five ears hearing Tasi
license plates going up the road
to the Highlands at about 3:30
P. M. They were, a black Chevrolet, a Cortina with a white
top and a marcon body, two
Velkswagens and a Volkswagen
bus. At 5:30 P. M., after Mr.
Thompson was last seen at the
hungalow, the five cars returned
down the mountain road.
Those who are interested in
the abduction theory also recall
Mr. Thompson's last moments
at the hungalow.

Money or Politics?

Money or Politics?

at the hungatow.

Money or Politics?

Mr. Thompson and Mrs. Mangskau—with Mr. and Mrs. J. T.
Ling, their hosts—had a pienic lunch after attending church. When they returned to the hungalow, all except Mr. Thompson decided to take a nap.

Soon afterward the Lings, who occupied a hedroom facing out onto a gravel drive, heard a steel chair being moved across the drive. Mr. Ling remarked to his wife, Helen, "I guess Jim is going to have a sunbath."

Half an hour later they both heard the chair being put back, and footsteps were Mr. Thompson's. If so, that was the last that was heard of him.

Why should anyone abdust lames Wilson Thompson?

He was rich, but no demand for ransom has been received. To some, a political motivation seems more reasonable. Mr. Thompson first came to Thailand as an agent of the United States Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency. At one time he know and liked Pride Hananwong, a postwar Prime Minister of Thailand who had the and the state of the Manand and the had plantan wong, a postwar Prime Minister of Thailand who had the state of the Anananyong, a postwar Prime Minister of Thailand who had

time he knew and illied Pridi. Phanamyong, a postwar Prime Minister of Thailand who had worked for the agency against. the Japanese, Mr. Pridi has been in exile in Communist China since 1950.

Moving an abdueted man out of Malaysia presents no problem. There have been persistent reports that unidentified aircraft fly to landing strips in Malaysia built in isolated areas by the British during their campaign against the Communists in the nineteen-fifties, The Malaysian Government deales the existence of these strips and of the flights, But Australians and British sources say the stripsic exist.

# JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

On May 8, 1967, Mrs. James Douglas, 1 Stonegate, Lake Forest, Illinois, advised her husband had revealed to her information he had furnished concerning her brother James Thompson. She had no additional information to add to that furnished by her husband. She and her brother Mr. Henry B. Thompson of Reisterstown, Maryland, are departing the United States on May 9, 1967, and after a stop over in Paris are to arrive in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 15, 1967.

She considered James Thompson to be in excellent health. He had a history of gallstones and amoebic dysentery. She knew of no other health problems. She advised James Thompson had seen Dr. Philip N. Jones in 1966. He had seen Dr. Richard B. Capps in the past. Mrs. Douglas advised James Thompson had never revealed anything to her during visits or by letter that would indicate he was having any problem that would lead to his disappearance. She explained that she and her brother would help in any way when they arrived in Bangkok.

On May 8, 1967, Dr. Richard B. Capps, M.D., 122
South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, advised that James
Thompson has been his patient since in 1962. He has seen
Thompson on yearly basis at which time he gave Thompson an
annual physical examination. Since 1962, Thompson has had
amoebic dysentery. He had found Thompson had a gallbladder
condition. He examined Thompson on October 6, 1966, at which
time Thompson mentioned he had attacks due to gallbladder
condition. These attacks were about six months apart and
caused pain, nausea and vomiting. He had found no indication
of heart trouble or hypertension. He considered Thompson to
be a very stable person. It was his opinion that Thompson's gallbladder condition or amoebic dysentery are not likely to have
been involved in his disappearance. He advised that he was
Thompson's regular doctor and last examined Thompson on October 6,
1966. He explained that Dr. Philip N. Jones who shares office
space examined Thompson in August, 1965.

On May 8, 1967, Dr. Philip N. Jones, advised he had no additional pertinent information concerning Thompson other than that furnished by Dr. Capps. He advised he did not feel that Thompson's gallbladder or amoebic dysentery could have lead to his disappearance.

5-34 (Rov. 2-15-63)

SAC Los Angeles

May 12, 1967

Director, FBI (163-18347)

JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION BUDED 5/26/67

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action is a request for assistance from a foreign agency.

This request must be complied with promptly in accordance with instructions contained in Section 103 of the Manual of Instructions. Submit the results of your inquiries in a letterhead memorandum. The Bureau is origin in this case and must be advised of all action taken.

The letterhead memorandum must be prepared in such a manner as to fully protect our sources and techniques. If the request concerns information from another Government agency, include in the letterhead memorandum only the information which the agency is willing to have furnished to the interested foreign government. Do not include the names of Special Agents in either the letterhead memorandum or in signed statements. The letterhead memorandum should receive a protective security classification if warranted but should not receive a group classification. Do not include the property statement in the letterhead memorandum unless special reasons exist and any such reasons should be explained in the cover letter.

The reputation of the Bureau within foreign agencies and the cooperation that we receive in turn from them will in a large measure be determined by the manner in which this type case is handled. It is imperative, therefore, that any requested investigation and the reporting thereof meet the highest standards of the Bureau.

Enc. 6

Obtain information concerning as requested by Legat, Manila, if at all possible. Please expedite.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 19/8/13 BY 8940 2HE MED LOG

		_
	OPTICUAL FORM NO. 10 NAV 188 EDITION	
	UNITED STATES VERNMENT	
1	Memorandum	
Stor	DIRECTOR, FBI DATE: 5/9/67 (ATT: LIAISON SECTION)	
FROM	SAC, NEW YORK (163-2044) (RUC)	•
subject	JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON FOREIGN POLICE COOPERATION	*
	ReBulet 4/26/67, Legat, Manila letter 4/27/67 and NY teletype to Bureau 5/8/67.	
	Enclosed for the Bureau is the original and 5 copies of a letterhead memorandum reflecting interview of conducted by SA	
2	on 5/8/67.	ı
	The attention of the Bureau is directed to the fact that the mentioned in Legat, Manila	6
	cablegram furnished with referenced Bureau letter is	3
	possibly identical with Bufile 47-51315, NY file 47-9355.	
•		
3.	34	
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*	3-Bureau (Enc. 6)	
	(1-Liaison Section)	
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	(III) MILITER CONTROL	t
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A. S. A. A.	11-7 1967	12



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION New York, New York May 9, 1967

# James Harrison Wilson Thompson

8	s decommon and appears of the second	
	formerly of	
and last Since tha to thank advised t Bangkok experienc however,	ised he is of captioned missing individual saw him in October, 1966, in the United States.	b6 b7C
of the re uncle whi Bangkok c and knowledge W. Thomps	advised he has no first-hand knowledge cent situation in Bangkok and anything concerning his ch has come to his attention has been furnished by who anticipates going to m or about May 9. 1967. He advised that are probably the two most able individuals in the family concerning James H. son. He advised he has no information concerning recent activities which might in any way be to his disappearance.	ь6 ь7с
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	360 260	5
	onclusions of the FBI. It is the research in the countries of the FBI. It is the research is the countries are not to be distributed outside your agency.	3

ENCLOSURE

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, · ·	*
,	5/19/67
	1 - Liaison
airtel	1 - b6 b7c
To: LEGAT, Manila (163-1456)	
From: Director, FBI (163-18347	)
James Harrison Wilson Thompson,	FPC.
Reurcab 4/25/67.	
<u> </u>	in ferred to/recab, is undoubtedly
-identical with	who is well-
known to the Bureau for claiming solve crimes, foretell the futu	re. and locate missing suspects
V gor persons through "extrasensor	y perception."
Known to the Bureau for claimin solve crimes, foretell the futu or persons through "extrasensor persons	
NON	-
For your information	only (not to be disseminated),
S he ever contributed anything by	, and there wis no evidence that his alleged extrasensory per-
	and he originally came from b7c
Her early 20's, reportedly acco	mpanies him on his tours through-
out the United States and in for	reign countries. It has been
de a bueinage one	
While the Bureau know	s that is a fraud, we
While the Bureau know must be circumspect in furnishi to individuals outside the Bure inform your Malaysian source in	au. In this regard, you should
inform your Malaysian source in (spelling as	in recab) is probably identical
field of	who has gained publicity in the In addition, you should advise
Tolson your source of the basic facts	No other-information concern-
Wick ing should be furnished	
Conted HCF: 1mr	EC-75
Gale (6) Votes (N)	- 700,
Toyel 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (De	tached) See note page 2,
Tele. 15 7 THAY 29 1967 TELETYPE UNIT	

NB: the above FBI memo may refer to psychic Peter Hurkos, who became quite involved in the JT case. See the next page, which shows that the redacted person claimed that JT was taken to Cambodia, and also see JK, pp. 190-1, which shows that Hurkos stated that JK was abducted to Cambodia.

Airtel to Manila
James Harrison Wilson Thompson, FPC
163-18347

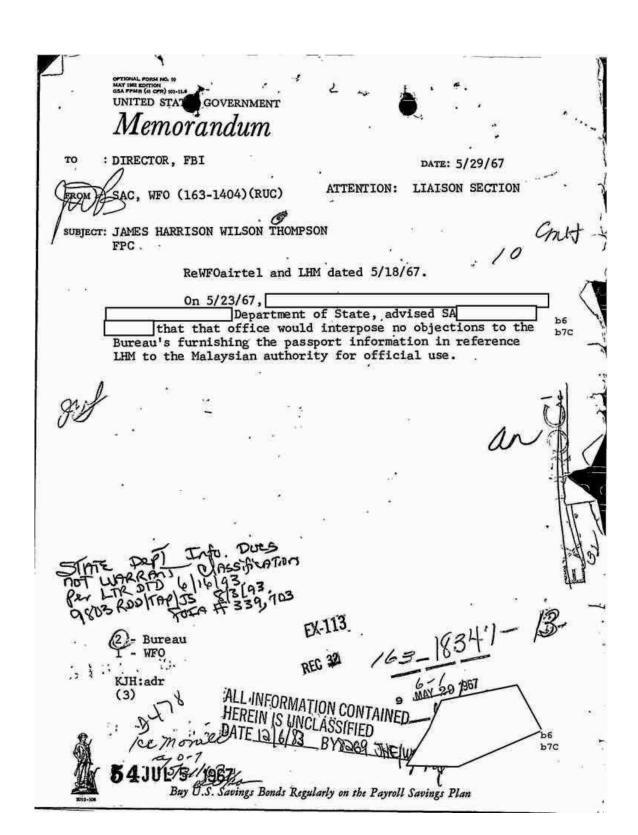
NOTE:

Subject, a 61 year old American resident of Bangkok,
Thailand, disappeared on 3/24/67 while vacationing at Cameron
Highlands, Malaysia. He is believed by Malaysian authorities
to have been kidnaped by persons unknown. We have been conducting inquiries in this country in an effort to develop information from close associates regarding Thompson.

check on	requested Legat, Manila, have Burea who arrived in Cameron Highlands.
	y from Bangkok, 4/24/67, to investigate sub-
	nce at the request of one of subject's rela-
tive's.	was accompanied by
	er a few hours in Cameron Highlands,
	pson was abducted from Cameron Highlands and
	by armed communists. Legat requested Bureau
advise of extent	of "successes" attributed to

- 2 -

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AIRGRAM		D C O P Y	TELETYPE Tele. Room.
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/	OR (163-18347) MANILA NO. 95		ь6 ь7с
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		I Pace	The state of the s
BY	CABLE THIS DATE REQ	UESTS FBI CHECK U.	S. PRESS
	IAT MRS. KATHERINE TH	150	
	PROERED LAST WEEK IN I		VANIA, HAD 571
EXPECTED V	ICTIM JIM THOMPSON F		
1		IS ALLEGED TO	10
THIS STATE		UESTS ANY INFORMAT	200
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<u>*</u>	4:39 AM LRC	5.	
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AIRTEL

TO:

SAC, CHICAGO

FROM:

SAC, BALTIMORE (163-203)

SUBJECT:

JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON

FPC

Re attached Bureau letter to Washington Field,

4/26/67.

Enclosed for Chicago is one xerox copy each of re Bureau letter to Washington Field dated 4/26/67, and 2 cablegrams from Legat Manila to Director dated 4/25/67.

On 5/2/67, HENRY B. THOMPSON, Reisterstown,
Maryland, advised his brother, JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON,
visited their sister, Mrs. JAMES H. DOUGLAS, 1 Stonegate,
Lake Forest, Illinois, during September, 1966. THOMPSON
was treated by an unknown doctor in Chicago, Illinois for amoebic dysentery.

#### LEAD:

# CHICAGO DIVISION

### AT LAKE FOREST, ILLINOIS

1. Interview Mrs. JAMES H. DOUGLAS, 1 Stonegate, Lake Forest, Illinois for any details known to her concerning subject's disappearance and for any information known regarding his personal life and background which might lead to his whereabouts.

2. Obtain name of physician who treated THOMPSON from Mrs. DOUGLAS (#pd interview re THOMPSON's health.
2 - Chicago (Encls 3)

INFORMATION CONTAINED REIT 18 UNDLESSIFED EXCE IERE SHOWN OTHERMSE. T - Bureau 1 - Baltimore WHERE

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RDS:rms

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

7 196 EREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 18/1/83 BY SP-4-800 DAY 18 MAY 4 1967

NOT RECORDED

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		4/27/67
AIRTEL		
TO: SA	C, CHICAGO	
	C, WFO (163-1404) (P)	*
	RISON VILSON THOMPSON	a . 10
FPC BUDED 5/	10/67	may 10
is now mo	mber of law firm, Gardner,	Carton, Douglas and
is now mo	mber of law firm, Gardner,	Carton, Douglas and
Chilgren,	mber of law firm, Gardner, First National Bank Build Chicago intorview t's request.	in accordance
vith Loga 2 - Chica	Chicago interview t's request.	ling, Chicago.
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9/5/67

### PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

#

URGENT

TO SAC PHILADELPHIA

1 - Liaison
1 - FROM DIRECTOR FBI

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JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON, FPC:

SUBJECT, A SIXTY-ONE YEAR OLD AMERICAN RESIDENT OF
BANGKOK, THAILAND, DISAPPEARED UNDER MYSTERIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES
ON EASTER SUNDAY, NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN, WHILE VACATIONING AT
CAMERON HIGHLANDS, MALAYSIA: EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION TO DATE
IN MALAYSIA AND ELSEWHERE HAS FAILED TO EXPLAIN THIS DISAPPEARANCE OR DETERMINE SUBJECT'S WHEREABOUTS AND WHETHER HE
IS STILL ALIVE:

MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE RECEIVED UNITED STATES PRESS
REPORTE THAT MRS. KATHERINE THOMPSON WOOD, SISTER OF VICTIM,
REPORTEDLY MURDERED DURING WEEK BEGINNING AUGUST TWENTY-SIX
LAST, IN PENNSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA, HAD EXPECTED THOMPSON FOR
REC 18 /6 3 - /8 3 4 7

IS ALLEGED TO HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT.

ENDEAVOR TO VERIFY STATEMENT AND OBTAIN ANY

BE SEP 6 1967

INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT LINK MRS. WOOD'S MURDER TO VICTIM'S

BE SEP 6 1967

Tolson DISAPPEARANCE: SUTEL:

Delouch JEG: 1mr FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATIO.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTISEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

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SOLUTION SECTION

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TELETYPE TO SAC PHILADELPHIA RE: JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON, FPC

# NOTE:

Requested inquiry was received from Legat, Manila, by cable dated 9/5/67.

- 2 -

CODED  CABLEGRAM  URGENT  CONFIDENTIAL  TO LEGAT MANILA
CODED  CABLEGRAM  URGENT  CONFIDENTIAL  1 - Liaison  1 - Liaison  DATE OF HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  ALL UNFORMATION CONTAINED  TO LEGAT MANILA  1 - Liaison  1 - Liaison  DATE OF HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  AND IS HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON. FPC:  REURCAB SEPTEMBER FIVE LAST.  CHIEF INVESTIGATOR OF MURDER OF KATHERINE THOMPSON WOOD  NUMBER ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED BY NUMBER AND SUBJECT'S  DISAPPEARANCE.
TO LEGAT MANILA  1 - Liaison  1
TO LEGAT MANILA  1 - Liaison  1 - Liaison  ALL WFORMATION CONTAINED  FROM DIRECTOR FBI  JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON: FPC:  REURCAB SEPTEMBER FIVE LAST:  CHIEF INVESTIGATOR OF MURDER OF KATHERINE THOMPSON WOOD  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED  NOUND SI WAR ADVISED ON SEPTEMBER SIX LAST THAT HIS INVESTIGAT
EFFORTS BEING MADE TO CONTACT REGARDING
STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO HER BY PRESS THAT WOOD EXPECTED VICIL MO  FOR DINNER ON LABOR DAY LAST.  JEG: Imr (5) NOTE: By referenced cable Manila advised that desired the Bureau to check NOTE: By referenced cable Manila advised that desired the Bureau to check U. S. press reports that wood, sister of victim, who was murdered in Pennsburg, Pennsylvania, during preceeding week, had expected victim, Jim Thompson, for dinner on Labor Day  Sal last.  Subject, a 61-year-old American resident of Bangkok, Thailand, disappeared under mysterious circumstances on Easter  Sunday, 1967, while vacationing at Cameron Highlands, Malaysia.  Subject, a 61-year-old American resident of Bangkok, Thailand, disappeared under mysterious circumstances on Easter  Sunday, 1967, while vacationing at Cameron Highlands, Malaysia.  Subject a 61-year-old American resident of Bangkok, Thailand, disappeared under mysterious circumstances on Easter  Sunday, 1967, while vacationing at Cameron Highlands, Malaysia.  SEPT 1967
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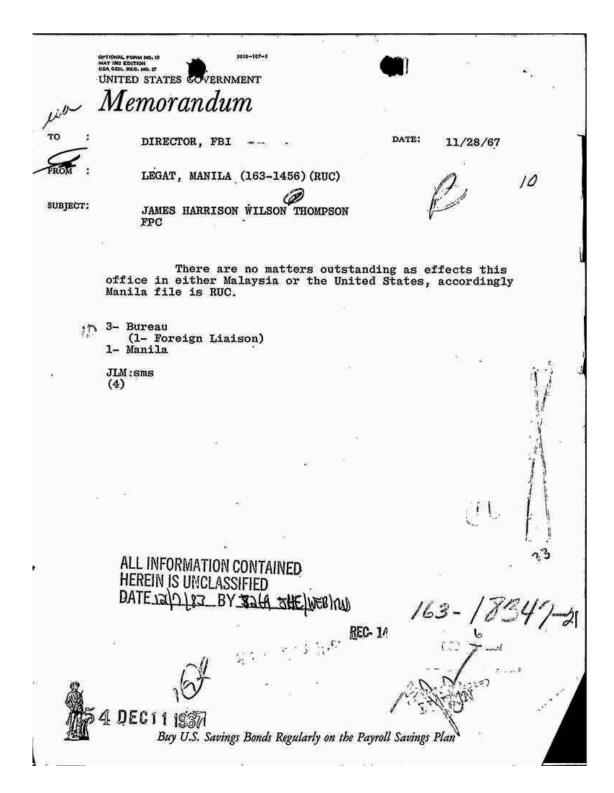
# James Harrison Wilson Thompson

stated she had no information regarding the possible appearance of Thompson at Mrs. Wood's home on Labor Day, 1967. She explained that she had told newspaper reporters that Thompson had in the past appeared at the Wood home on Labor Day and that Mrs. Wood had never given up hope that her brother was still alive and therefore quite naturally, Mrs. Wood was hoping that he would appear Labor Day, 1967. explained that the reporters had translated these remarks to mean that Thompson had indicated in some unknown way that he would be at Mrs. Wood's on Labor Day, 1967. added that she could offer no information whatsoever regarding Thompson and that she felt badly that her remarks to the newspaper reporters had been misconstrued to be evidence that Thompson may still be alive.

**b7C** 

9/20/67 CODED CABLEGRAM URGENT 1 - Liaison TO LEGAT MANILA FROM DIRECTOR FBI JAMES HARRISON WILSON THOMPSON. **b6** b7C C. REURCAB SEPTEMBER NINETEEN LAST. FORWARDED YOU SEPTEM-RESULTS INTERVIEW WITH BER NINETEEN. SHE ADVISES SHE DID NOT MAKE THE STATEMENT IN THE FORM ATTRIBUTED TO HER IN PRESS REPORTS. JEG:lmr (5) June 1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Detached) Interview with was requested by b7D in connection with a press report which attributed to her the statement that subject, **b6** Thompson, a 61-year-old American resident of Bangkok, Thailand, who disappeared under mysterious circumstances on Easter Sunday, 1967, was expected to have dinner with his sister, Mrs. Catherine Thompson Wood, in Pennsylvania on Labor Day, 1967. b7C Referenced cable asked that results of interview with be forwarded as soon as possible. 21 1967 ENCIPHERED DeLoach . Bishop --Casper --Callphan Conrad --Felt . ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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NB: RUC in FBI parlance means Referred Upon Completion, meaning the matter has been completed and the file will be inactive unless that office is asked to re-open the case or take other action. Note that "effects" should be "affects."

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The two "Bufiles" are Bureau files, and the first is the extensive investigation done of JT in 1953 and the second is the investigation of the disappearance.

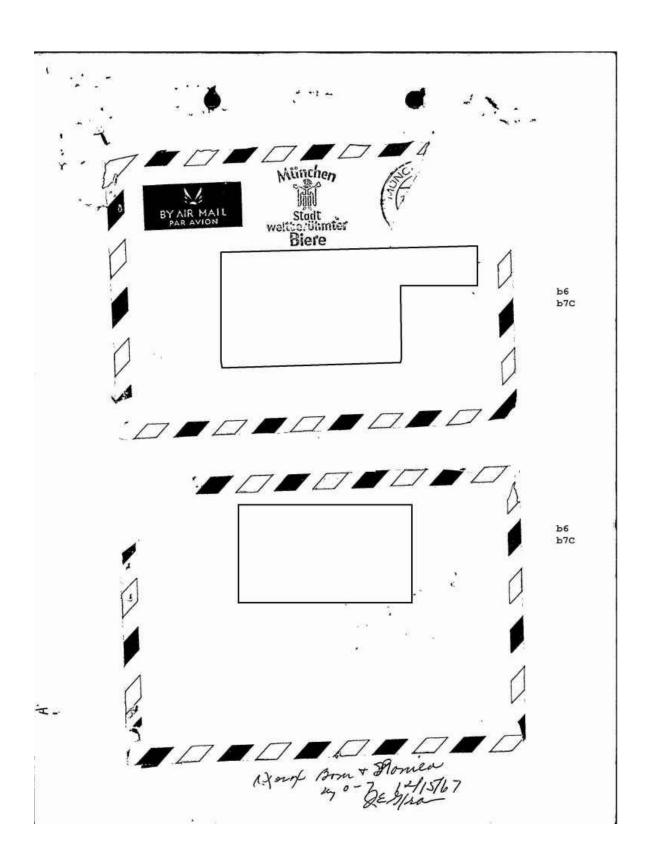
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## No. germany 26th, November 1967 Dear with great consternation I learned that my : Mr. James L. W. Thompson, oleon living in Bourghok IThailand, Box 906, disappearld several in outro ago in the jungles of Malaysia while on a holiday trip and that there is no indication of any kind as to what happened. This bad wars made me very unhappy and put we into obreadful fear bewriese of his olesting. Down our orphan of Norwegiche origin and he was the only person in the whole world Zwho cared for me. Therefore you sirely can includerstand when I now try to help him. My great hope is to find some of his american neloctives oud to beg them to start searching a casious in order to investigate this doubtful E & coffour. I should be unich obliged to you if you revoiled Justorm me whether you are or relative to of Mr. James X. W. Trampson and if you will support my request. 3 Tranking you wind in ordvance, I remain 1 TC/Sec your very unhappy **b6** 12/5/01 ь7С del 12-6-67



# Annex 12 Note from Henry Thompson, Nephew of JT

As part of my research, I sent a letter in early February 2015 to Henry Thompson III, nephew of JT, in Oyster Bay, New York. (Recall it was this nephew who helped set up the JT Foundation, who was the principal heir of the Thai portion of the JT estate, and who was formerly a New York stockbroker.) He kindly replied promptly, on 14 February 2015. In my letter, I said that I was researching the case, described my activities, and asked several questions, including:

- 1. Did he have any primary materials on the case, especially daily cables or other search-related materials? His answer was "No."
- 2. Did he have any maps or police reports on the case? His answer was "Good Luck"
- 3. Did he have contact information on Martha Galleher? His answer was "No."

He kindly wrote a short handwritten note on the back of my letter, which recommended that I read William Warren's book on JT (I already had studied it closely, in fact). He stated that "Sensibly William Warren has never attempted to interview me although we have been acquainted for over 65 years."

He also recommended that I obtain *The Ideal Man* by Joshua Kurlantzick (which I had already studied). Here he stated, "I did consent to be interviewed. The book was a "turkey." With the aid of the Internet you may be able to uncover something new but it won't be from me. Yours, Henry Thompson"

#end#

# Annex 13 Items from the Will and Administration of JT, in Delaware

The will and administration papers for JT were obtained from Ms. Cynthia Reinhardt, of the New Castle County Register of Wills Office, 800 N. French St., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., Redding County Court Bldg., Wilmington, DE 19801, who was very helpful. A search was done by this office for the will and administration of Katharine Thompson Wood, but nothing was found in the office; her estate was settled in Chester County, PA.

Searches at the office cost \$5 and documents are \$2 per page. Since over 100 pages were obtained and many were not relevant to the case, only excerpts of interesting items are provided below, with the document shown in caps and the content below.

### Petition by Wilmington Trust Co.

On 25 November 1974 this company petitioned the Register for Wills for Letters Testamentary for JT, citing his will dated 6 October 1961, and stating that JT "departed this life" on 26 March 1974 at 3 am. [This is seven years after the disappearance.] His listed next of kin [as of 1974] were Mrs. Elinor T. Douglas, sister; Henry B. Thompson, brother; Thomas Reath, Jr., nephew; Robert A. Reath, nephew; Henry B. Thompson III, nephew; Mrs. Mary Thompson Dwyer, niece; Charles D. W. Thompson, nephew; Henry T. Donaldson, nephew; John T. Wood, grandnephew; and Harrison W. Wood, Jr., grandnephew.

The personal property of the JT estate was valued at \$70,000 and the real estate valued at \$110,000.

### Will of James H. W. Thompson (Will Record Book X, Vol. 13, pp. 393-6)

JT, of Greenville, New Castle, DE, made this will, to cover all property except that situated in the Kingdom of Thailand, and intended to [and did] make a separate will for the Thai property.

All person effects and tangible property (other than in Thailand) is to go to "my brother, Henry B. Thompson and my sisters, Mary Thompson Reath, Katharine Thompson Wood, and Eleanor Thompson Douglas," or to their survivors.

The Executor is to divide the estate into shares, as many as the number of the brother and sisters who survive JT, or who deceased leave issue surviving.

Each share is to be given per stirpes to the issue of his brother or sisters; or, if there is no issue, then to the sister or brother her/himself. [Thus the issue (nephews and nieces of JT) are most benefited under this arrangement.] ["Per stirpes" means that each descendant branch of the family in each generation receives an equal share.]

Wilmington Trust Co. is appointed Executor, with the usual powers.

### State of Delaware, Inventory of James H. W. Thompson, Non-Resident Decedent

Inventory of household and personal effects per attached appraisal: \$4775 Jewelry per attached appraisal: \$1285

Beneficiaries of tangible personal property:

• Elinor T. Douglas, of Illinois, sister: \$3030

• Henry B. Thompson, of Maryland, brother: \$3030

Statement of Real Estate Actually Situated in Delaware:

3701 Centerville Road, Greenville, Wilmington, DE, with 2.328 acres and improvements, with an assessed value in 1974 of \$34,400 and a fair market value in 1974 of \$110,000: Devised by the American will to (and the actual amounts distributed on 8 April 1975 shown in dollars, per a later document "distribution on account...":

- Henry T. Donaldson, Nephew, ¼ share; \$25,503
- Harrison W. Wood, Jr., Grandnephew, 1/8 share; \$12,751
- John J. Wood, Grandnephew, 1/8 share; \$12,751
- Thomas Reath, Jr., Nephew, 1/12 share; \$8,501
- Henry T. Reath, Jr., Nephew, 1/12 share; \$8,501
- Robert A. Reath, Jr., Nephew, 1/12 share; \$8,501
- Henry B. Thompson III, Nephew, 1/12 share; \$8,501
- Mary Thompson Dwyer, Niece, 1/12 share; \$8,501
- Charles D. W. Thompson, Nephew, 1/12 share; \$8,501

Appraisal of jewelry held by Decedent's brother, Henry B. Thompson of Maryland:

Various silver, gold and diamond items, the most valuable of which at \$600 was a lady's silver and gold pendant with numerous minute oriental pearls...; total value of all items \$1285, and with no indication of the country of origin of the various items.

### Inventory and Appraisal of Personal Property at Larmore Moving and Storage

Various linens, towels, blankets, tables, andirons, trunks, luggage, china, iron bed, oak chest, 31 cartons of books, 8 cartons of paintings and mirrors, 4 cartons of china, etc. Most valuable item: 2 antique English mirrors; \$500. No more detail on the items. Total value \$2245.

Various furniture items, including Hepplewhite settee c. 1900; numerous side chairs; armchairs; mahogany veneer commode, 4 drawers, 50" long, English, \$300 (the most valuable item); total value: \$4775.

## Opinion by the Register of Wills, re Hearing on 10 June 1974 in the Register's Court, New Castle County, re James H.W. Thompson Estate

"Mr. James H.W. Thompson disappeared in the jungle surrounding the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Ling, and the disappearance was mysterious, unexpected and without reason. A massive search was undertaken by the Malaysian police, volunteer searchers and over 200 Boy Scouts who searched some 15 miles of the jungle." [Note: unclear if this means **square** miles; it likely does.]

"Mr. Henry B. Thompson undertook to go to the area... contacts with local police, CIA and the US embassy did not result in any clues. A substantial award of \$25,000 was offered....but no lead ever received."

"No other contact" from JT since 1967.

"Continuance of life" is inferred from 1967 to 1974, and the death date is set at 26 March 1974.

## Proceedings Before the Register of Wills, re Hearing on 10 June 1974 10:15 am EDST in the Register's Court, New Castle County, re James H.W. Thompson Estate

Items here include:

Various affidavits from friends and relatives testify that after March 1967 they have had no contact nor heard from JT.

Affidavit of William M. Riley, "close friend" of JT, who saw JT four days before the disappearance, at lunch at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club, as was their almost daily custom, and "for the past seven years Mr. Riley has been the custodian of Mr. Thompson's house which is located in Bangkok, Thailand. He is not aware of any evidence that Mr. Thompson is living..."

Direct examination of Henry Thompson III, (HT) of Oyster Bay, NY, stockbroker, who since 1951 would usually see JT at the Gladstone Hotel in NYC where JT would stay in his annual visit to the US. There was a family reunion in NYC where most of the family saw JT for the last time. HT heard of the JT disappearance when CBS announced it over the Dow Jones [wire] in Glore Forgan & Co. in NYC. HT called his father. HT went to Thailand in 1969 to petition the Thai Probate Court to appoint HT as administrator of the JT Thai estate. HT went back again in 1971 and 1973 to set up a foundation in JT's name. In 1971 HT met with Mr. Berlin Gerli (managing editor, *The Bangkok World*) who had offered the first reward for JT, eventually totaling \$25,000, and met with Ambassador to Thailand Leonard Unger, who knew JT and who was Ambassador

when JT disappeared. Also met with General Black. None of these persons knew any more about the disappearance, and none had heard from JT.

HT stated that the amount of \$25,000 for the reward was chosen because the "standard ransom" in Malaysia for a kidnapped Chinese businessman was "approximately \$10,000... and they thought that a bigger reward would get better results."

HT stated that JT had a "round trip ticket back to Thailand."

Direct examination of Henry B. Thompson, (HBT) brother of JT: JT's marriage was terminated in divorce, and they had no children. After WW II, JT "did a lot of chores" for the US Federal Government in Thailand, then worked with the Cultural Attache, who suggested that JT try to revive the Thai silk industry. Bangkok was JT's permanent home, and he intended to stay there. JT owned a house in Centerville in New Castle County which JT rebuilt as architect, for the mother of HBT, but she never moved in, and when she died she left it to JT. JT never lived in it, but rented it out. He never intended to live in it.

HBT heard of the disappearance from his son, calling from NYC, who had read about it on the news wire. HBT and his sister Mrs. Douglas went to Bangkok in May 1967 to investigate. They called on the US Ambassador, heads of CIA in Bangkok and Malaysia, and several generals with the Malaysian police.

### HBT stated the following:

The head of the CIA in Malaysia told me and my sister that the country had always been under a British system, and the natives were very good about reporting things, and he said that if a calf dies and is buried in a grave and fresh earth is turned over it, he said, "I usually know about that within 24 hours no matter what part of the country it's in, because it might be a human being." And he said, "I can assure you that your brother is not buried in this country."

Re the search, HBT stated:

When [JT] disappeared on Easter Day, the next day Boy Scouts were brought in to comb the forest, the tropical forest there, and the combed the forest for 10 or 15 miles around, and never discovered anything. [There were] about 200 Boy Scouts, something like that. [Unclear if the "10 or 15" means **square** miles or is a radius around a point.]

## Petition for Adjudication of Presumed Death, in the Matter of James H. W. Thompson, an Absentee

This reads as follows:

### Item 3:

According to the verified petition filed on January 19, 1968 in the Court of Chancery of the State of Delaware in and for New Castle County, C.A. Number 2735, the petitioner, Harrison Wilson Wood, a nephew of James H. W. Thompson, represented to the Court of Chancery as follows:

James H.W. Thompson was last seen by anyone whom I know or of whom I have been able to obtain information on the afternoon of March 26, 1967 at the vacation residence of his friends, Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Ling, in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia, where he was their guest. Following lunchtime on that date, the Lings and their guests, including my uncle, retired to their different rooms. I have not seen or heard from my uncle from that time on, and I know of no person who has seen or heard from him since that time. The jungles surrounding the Ling's vacation residence in the Cameron Highlands is dense and it is possible that my uncle may have walked into the jungle and become lost. There has also been some speculation that he was abducted. The facts and the theories surrounding his disappearance have been widely reported in the press in this country as well as in Southeast Asia....Almost immediately after his disappearance, intensive search operations were begun by large amounts of Malaysian police, soldiers and volunteers. A reward of \$25,000 (a fortune to the average inhabitant of Malaysia) was offered...and was common knowledge in Malaysia. But...no more is known about his whereabouts....

[Note: Harrison Wilson Wood was deposed in January, 1968, just ten months after his uncle disappeared and four months after his mother was murdered. He committed suicide in 1971, and hence was not available to testify in this court proceeding.]

## Civil Action 2735, In the Matter of James H.W. Thompson, Order in the Court of Chancery of New Castle County

On the second day of May 1968, the petition of Harrison Wilson Wood for appointment of a Receiver for the estate of JT is being considered, and it appears that JT is missing and there is no person authorized to manage his property, which is in danger of misuse, therefore the Wilmington Trust Co. is appointed Receiver and directed to administer all JT assets.

"Clues Are Sought on Lost American," The New York Times, 29 April 1967 (attachment to legal papers)

"On the Sunday afternoon that Mr. Thompson disappeared, a worker at the garage in Tappa noticed five cars bearing Thai license plates going up the road to the Highlands at about 3:30 pm. They were a black Chevrolet, a Cortina with a white top and a maroon body, two Volkswagens and a Volkswagen bus. At 5:30 pm, after Mr. Thompson was last seen at the bungalow, the five cars returned down the mountain road."

#end#

# Annex 14 Items Related to Elizabeth (Lisa) Lyons

## Partial Email Train Between the Penn Museum and Lew Toulmin Re Lyons Letters

### RE: letters from Jim Thompson to Elizabeth ("Lisa") Lyons at the Penn Museum

----Original Message-----From: Eric Schnittke < >

To: lewtoulmin <lewtoulmin@aol.com>

Cc: >

Sent: Wed, Oct 22, 2014 5:30 pm

Subject: RE: letters from Jim Thompson to Elizabeth (Lisa) Lyons at the Penn Museum

Hi Lew:

You can download PDFs of all of the letters here:

Should you cite the letters, please just credit the Penn Museum. Let me know if you have any other questions.

Best,

Eric

From: lewtoulmin@aol.com [mailto:lewtoulmin@aol.com]

Sent: Friday, September 26, 2014 5:05 PM

To: Eric Schnittke

Cc:

Subject: Re: letters from Jim Thompson to Elizabeth (Lisa) Lyons at the Penn Museum

Hi Eric,

Thanks very much for your research, which I hope you found interesting. Yes, please:

- 1. provide me an estimate of the cost of scanning the letters and giving me a DVD of them
- 2. tell me about how long the scanning/delivery process would likely take
- 3. let me know what rights I would have to quote, excerpt or reproduce any or all of the letters. As I mentioned, I am trying to compile all relevant data on the disappearance. From what you kindly just told me, it sounds like the items you described would be of interest, but many of the other letters would not be directly relevant to my focus.

I am cc-ing my wife in Maryland, since she would likely receive the DVD.

Thanks!

Lew Toulmin

----Original Message-----From: Eric Schnittke < >

To: lewtoulmin < >

Sent: Sat, Sep 27, 2014 6:18 am

Subject: RE: letters from Jim Thompson to Elizabeth (Lisa) Lyons at the Penn Museum

### Hi Lew:

Here are the results of the research:

- 1. What dates to the letters span, and are they legible? 1956-1966, some undated
- 2. What is the focus of the letters? **Initially the relationship the two shared, later his dealings, her work, and his house**
- 3. How many letters are there? Folder 1: 26, Folder 2: 10, Folder 3: 9 and 1 article
- 4. Are there items in the collection related to Thompson other than the letters, e.g. his will? **Just an article**
- 5. Are there any discussions in the letters about Thompson's relationship with the head of the Thai Fine Arts Department, who seized three Buddha heads from Thompson; with the wife of Field Marshal Sarit, one of Thompson's business rivals; or any other apparent enemies of Thompson? **See below**
- 6. Are the letters scanned or scan-able and obtainable on DVD or via download, or is there a transcript of the letters? Nothing is scanned or transcript, but all could be. If you are interested let me know and we can estimate a cost.
- 7. Is there any way to view the letters other than in person? (I am stationed in the S. Pacific until February 2015 and would likely not be able to get to Philadelphia until the spring or summer of 2015.) **Again, we could scan the letters.**
- 8. I plan on writing a substantial report on my findings, which are derived from research in the Cameron Highlands of Malaysia (where Thompson disappeared in 1967), Bangkok and elsewhere. Are you interested in a copy when I publish it? **That would be fine.**

In terms of enemies, a few things stuck out. Nothing was mentioned regarding the names you were interested but I found these:

#### Nov. 3. 1958:

Fired "Tos" as he had been writing poison pen letters to the Revenue Department because the accountant said he was a bad man. Tos thought the Revenue department would investigate the accountant for the letters.

### Apr. 21, 1964:

Changed his will. Not leaving his house to the Siam Society and resigned from the society. Dhanits broke his promise to the Society and me.

### May 31, 1964:

Thai Silk Co. had a shortage of 400,000 tials. It was investigated and all evidence pointed to "Nath". Confronted Nath at Directors meeting.

### March 14, 1968:

Article in Lak Moang newspaper that accuses Thompson of "destroying Buddahs and antiques". Thompson refused to return "valuable antiques in his possession."

I hope this helps. Please let me know if there is anything else that I can assist you with.

Best,

Eric

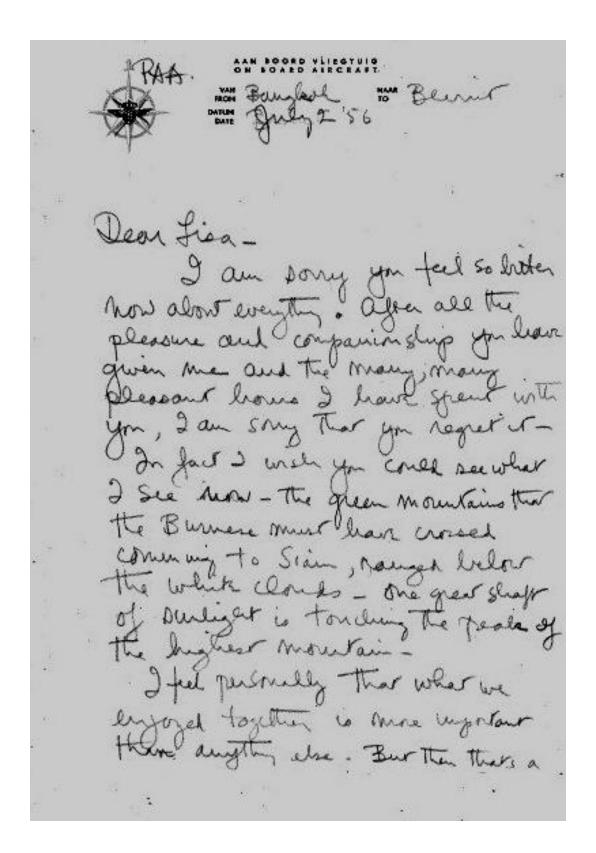
[Eric Schnittke; Assistant Archivist, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology]

### **Lisa Lyons Letters To and From Jim Thompson**

Printed with the Kind Permission of the Penn Museum: the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology

Since these letters have never been published before, they are included here in their entirety, even though much of the information does not (apparently) directly relate to the JT disappearance, and the letters cover quite a long period before 1967. It may be that future researchers are able to find clues here that I have missed. To me the following points stand out:

- Lisa Lyons was clearly a lover and later friend and art associate of Thompson. They saw
  each other from time to time in the US or Thailand. Hence she must be considered a
  possible (but unlikely) suspect in his disappearance.
- An incident occurred three years before the disappearance in which about 300,000 to 500,000 Baht or more was found to be missing from the Thai Silk Company. Naht, a very close and trusted friend of Thompson, was accused of being the culprit, and the Board of the company evaluated the evidence and voted overwhelmingly that he was guilty. Thompson was at first convinced of Naht's guilt and then relented and was not sure. Apparently Naht resigned, but this is not certain. It seems possible but not likely that this earlier event was associated with the 1967 disappearance.
- An article was placed in the Thai press after Thompson's disappearance, naming Thompson as a looter of the Thai patrimony. It seems very likely that the person who placed this piece was the then Thai Director of Fine Arts, and this article was an example of viciously "kicking an opponent when he is down" and unable to defend himself. This increases the likelihood somewhat that this Director was an enemy who had something to do with the disappearance, but this is still unlikely.





VAN PROM DATUM DATE

mano point of view of suppose - of under The circumstances of life as it was in Banglese, I had gone futher than I did it would have been a messy situate or all - you would not have been not have given up the other person Completely, and mones life would have been worth five cents. One connor force oneself to fall in loss. There is sheene I am in love with, but unpremeted she is on the question - I really think poor andrie has a rough deal of DeCause She lewons I am not love with then, and she is extranely Jealows of you because she knows in hour a very strong like on my propatries and wheleer, when there is - Its too lad life girs so

### AAN BOORD VLIEGTUIG



PROH DATUM DATE MARK TO

I enjoyed wen moment even spent inthym. I a world like the to be the beginning rup tel you are one of the

### AAH BOORD VLIEGTUIG



FROM DATUM DATE TO

bear heids I have in the world - ' I am sorry that I am the way I am, and thers thernow on the lighter touch - on friend from the Don Mining road with the cotton in the ruse, brought in all you als flash light bulls to the Blog this morning in a little his objects d'air y you can. Turs of I gave Ewing 5.00 to give y give my best to honory and ha Turd companions, and the Minado my life beens very tied to Asia, I

and heep me posted on a series you are doing and where you are doing and where you good a series and me good all the on Burnan To glace it in Voc

The you are doing and where you are

The going - If you will send me the

The Slicker article on Burner toposh.

The Slicker article on Burner toposh.

The you the Chitas is a very good

The you the Chitas is a very good

The Joseph hand on the brook and

The Joseph hand of the brook and with all

The Joseph hand of the best and with all

The May affer and admiration.

21 May 1957 Box 40 6 Barylish. Doar Lion. as 2 seen to be line to-migar for the first their in a long time, I will write you Some Mure. Ewiz has gone, lur 2 ville try and ger Brung to take Some photos of Nai Fers Haur Irushes etc. What lappened to your gotticle on the Private Collections -

Mue has ghitz a few additions Surce you last saw it. a Tawa European style sealed Buddha. a Tawa - UThing sealed Singe Mara type. a Tawa brings meditation pose type. a marvelow bronze graying Brahman that looks very modern - Kung Boro. period from Ayetha. He is to him - a really beautiful Standing Kliner about 10" lings low no feel or foreams. a meduni Dize Sulcothai head, Some Dize early changing head every Indian docking) a 3rd Period

UThong head - 4 Tawa Stucco faces - 2 very bentife and 2 whereting. alex griswold is lack in town. His book is very harden and well Buddhes- Maybe you have seen it. Sugher seems to take excepting to a lot of alex's Theries. Lots more painting too. Tois and I have made several Tryps up the 3 ruers alone Agathie. Little trench transpis gora whole set down from their maimuch more refused than ours, and mot as much guis -

Mary Buch bryser me of the most Beautiful of Versandon back in his pulace. The Palace Soars over his head and the Sky is all full of Cumaban and Indigo rain drops. I have one all done in beautiful blues with touche of Cumaban - Will send it on in the loan Collectin - 900 Vessaulrs wife with the wild anniels There are all dated 1852. Sue told me to write The avercin aubosseder in Burunto ger the Captonin on The Burning Fapertonis, lur Dan Sue on

and I could do better than that, So just make up The Captinis yourself. Did you see the other pictures
Ewry Hook of Scanier Pairings
in his office I East 534. The
Ones from the Museum in Philadelphia and The oldest Chaigs one in my house here. I have the most magnificen Red + grean carved Stanes be with a foam rubber mathers on ir. 22 had to pay 6000 for ir, but its worth ir. Ewing redis The larme in Color, just befre he left.

They should be in his office Mr. He will be back in early fine. He left here with aune gage for Bali alow a month ago Do tell aune marie to ger the autospadon long along permission for The Paintings So that I can get their packet and of help 9 lear here. Mary Bush Days the Churches and Kangirs have no whether of loaning theirs, but with Mine (that you hum and later additions) Some real beauts from The Klausner Collection (very early Bay bok charir some) a few

of Ewings that I commanded, Dry the Chiladayhan abbotton Perluis, ent from a different War than the hes you saw? ? Their their will be plenty. Just lar aune marie tell me if she wants 50 m 100 or What? Thep and Chow tell me The old abbret in Charge may die som and that they can leave that set after his death. Now you can sir dran + write me all about the book. Its hother T blazes + Sam drinky junt 7 Up

9 June 1957 Box 906 Banghor.

Dear Fisa.

Hape you got My letters and

the photographs of the point

pots. Buchout are some photos

which need mossiplan to you. There
which need mossiplan to you. There
are some new additions to my

called in amongst them that you

called in amongst them that you

agreers of them. One may be
a fake.

Plusa Raugits brother in law

leas written a look called

monumeral thai Bronzes, while

frally takes alec giswood on Hothem thai air. I tent to agree with Mon Chao Chands theories as apposed to Alex's -Jerocci wirk the introducion to the new Book. Will see if Sue can send you a copy though the pouch. Buiton Falis was here to look over the austrusting - the Rochefeller Foundation and I told them they show luie you on to send out here. 2 am Sure John + Blanchette Rockefeller world bely ont on the

book as they seen to have Rai aux 2 dait hun wheten I ever wroke you that they longer Mus Disen haffers Stone Klumen Buddhar, Ta-Da's UTong Served Budden, a little Brahm Figure of Mrs Sisenhoffers and a very mice Bronze Kleiner Standy Buddha Jen Peng Seng. Incidentaly my huesling lange Brahim is much more interesty than he appears in the photoduce to his very large destated kness and chringson that hardy cour for much in The plato.

The story of m

Box 906 Bayboli-

Dear from Suchosed are some more shorts.

The two man stuces heads are really mice than the photos.

The Sian Society Think They should be to Sianess translated of the broth - USIS also think they mugar pitch in, but USIS is always so long that its base is always so long that its base more to cour on them. I hope I have any me

dealing with Them after my Troubles with The Burnere Taperhies Hope you ger to see John or Blanchette Rochefelle. They are very fascinated by Stamere art. Specta langting looking ar things in this house. Intiminal ther They were always ready to help on anything really interesting. of Course I given they are The Asin Society. Comie Oronolean wone to sell the book at he new

Emporin at The Erawan Hotel - Thai Sille Co. Can too. The Barghoh Book Mart Should be able to seek quite a lot. Once you how The real price, I well comons the Book marks et and take orders for you 16 June -Obour a last mile with up the R.R. Tracks and about 18 of of the most ancier gives of

Trees, sits Wat Pradou, with ayothia period pairting, slighter more climese but in better Condition than Was Puthaismony The brokgoud is in all cases light - Yors of bearight green (everald) and Turquoise and other blues - Lots of eleghants and lines alore The Jadoh pairting and processins of Indiais, Chinau, Vietnamese in marvelnes cotumes of the period - No camera homan. after that went by bond up there is a 25 mela recliny Budden - The Wat they had

Mongut Period gamburgo in rather bad andition a caretahan of austre War told us That in the road for Agathin to anthony are Tuo other water with Aguitura Peniod Pauling So another day I will have to drive over there. Do sent Ewing back to take a few mone Photos -Write Soon and Tell me how you are making our Shredde in New york lak Figueraffectionately

21 Aug 1957 Po Box 906 Baughole

Dear Lisa.

Many thanks In your lost letter.

How been in more this. Prachibini
and Si Make Bo. also a trip to Kner
over partially finished new digling with

Rodalin.

Ar Prachi There is a marvelous
Austrian Barogne Palace Irrily

Australia Barogue Palace Inier by House aphaintongs father when he fled Cambrodia - It is of outside of Torm - white with red the domes etz surrounded by great gardens and branogue walls. Beyond hie The paddy feels and dierar blue mountains.

The road gud river run beside it, and the other sides is a wonderful wat be brief with thai roofs but semi Euguen archibelie all puike (Inhus, golds and redyin a Si Maha Bo is an old Min town South of Pradin- Just recently tog due up a headless Disavaration Buddle and a great stone covered with inscriptions. I have told alex with inscriptions. I have told alex other the later and I think he will make a rubbing to Coedes to decipine. Will tell you about Knur + The Klumer ruins When I see you. Fast week los what on his the river north of Rayburi

and come back with some Wonderful Paulings. The best was a set of about 23 painter of the life of Buddha. Some are wonderful andir Say lak 18th Century. only set of small Bainings have ever deen like this. were all by the Dame Preise The river. Size about 15" x 24 Two other Gadola sets were Identice in steles and rostin of Several years ago down The river, except the colors are defend.

you have one from two years ago and I while bruing you its shall to conjune The same Thing occured in Las Duri once. Do you Euprose some about gave our the designs to be traced on cloth and then the priese would fill in the volus to suir hunself. It's a tunger of your book as ir has occured ne times in two different lowing 2 will be home in frastale To day after Falor day by PAA and See ym Som-Best when afect in

9 Oct 1957 Shan Fisa Now after being back have practically a week 2 feel as of I had not been away, when? fuir gor lack I felt as if I had been away for months. The Manfedis were delights with their presents - She had me to du alone to hear all along you and Sundry other Things. Manasis Animal of Darliemen from Outen. Prices of antiques are way up a gora letter from Carl from Carth This Days he dres northwar the to Pay for the painty - He did live here for over a month and 2 did give him a painting almost which the one ar Marlot, so make 2 street more try to pay or ir might har his feelings I He said my has seen lots of runs into mary Bush. I have sent you a copy of me Than Monumental Bronzes for time Heave it gets there in time as it goes by Sea - an Andri Reggie Le May one too. Tunling Wells Kent England

Do ger Mazdey to lay some thing from lim, as he is very ger The Hopes and The Popes to gaway for the book. The to the right corners could do lots of good. I wish ohn & Blanchette and lian a slide projection of some of the photos. Maybe you could ger Blanchetts to your lecture "
The" Mer. " Have longer two Harapengai Stucco Machs from Bery Sery He did not wen hun whatter were till I Slighed him. now Dook. They are Mother

mon Um working hard on Bentten" here after getting The order without our in London - The falmis will be magnificently noting also is-Had two sun drendred days in Being after The rain of found The Massengills asked after you and gave me a magnificant Send off which almos madem miss my plane -Keep me posked on your admition of too have to lecture. To the Rotary Club and The Womans

BOX 906 Dear Fish. Many thanks for your letter. Its always a pleasure to hear from you. all the lectures some sen sortinal. Hopes the Rochetellers ger to one of them. Manas + 2 went to visir Min Koing to niger. Found his fallers had just died - He has a Marchons seared Schotha Buddla about 3' linger. The very classic

Period - Dr looks like The one in gusweds bosh out of Chalentpola Colle Vin -Suice I have been lach ? turned in two VThings to Peny Seny for a conglete 1st period Little Megalose or Bengal feathers Buddhe and a small Sallothai for a logger Suleathai put dung up ar Sullio (hai - alno 16" high Dery inversely purple red langeafter I longer it, I had Peryley remove some of the mudek and low and behold an usingthis

which I have sent off to M. Coekes in Paris for translation Calony with a letter unten by me in French I lige ir does not throw him. Charlotte Horstonaum now has in her estreveishment in Hong Kong a Marvelons Klumer Strudy Buddlen over I meter high. Her addressi 6 Duddel St. Bitter ger Mazly to send for photographs. It's a chance in a effertine - lur the price is mar lost. My two new figures are very fasculating. The inscripted one is a peoplish red lunge of the other a Cleaning body as a lot of mud is

encrusted on them. So for I have no land yer for My Thew lonce, Int am they in hald to find some in a hung. The place I trans, The tuners pur war too much for it. Harr made 68,000 Tills with of Sille for Ben Hon to dak- Fots of ir & very handsome - a green very earthy colors. Bob Fasher has been down-He was to turn up with 4 formalists on dimes here Minday Anger, and ended up la lunging Sile, Man Sawfred + Daviel Berrigan

Soirée will I AM. Mary of Moel are lade from Coyon-Both seem fine - Mr. Pard of the Balking Musam is here wants pairing - Told lin to yer knows in to find him some in Chierman gadners The Rotary The 14" + then god willinger, 2 am taking off 16 days to go to Sukothai, of points north - all This if I can get a Jeep - The 21st The new Best of luck on the tom-

UN 6 57 Box 906 Bangkok

Dear Lisa.

J Suppose you are how on

your extended lecture tour and
while not get this letter for a langtime.

Have just changed quite a few

Buddhas with Peng Seng, and as a

Nesner hour two Suhothai Buddhas
of the high classic (or earlier mayle)
ohe is 13 " high and the other 15".

also one small 1st Penost Uthong.
all two in the Josikin of calling
the lants to witness.

Suchord is The

6 Nov 1958 Box 906 Daughoh. Dear Lisa -I am afraid I never Thatles you in the last letter for the lovely record you sent me by Muniel. I like played it wer and over, and it is one of my favorite records. Mosterday, smene brought me the most beautiful Subathai Suddla don from Aunthus That I how almost twen seen. He really is superb-ever seen Serry over to see it

Wan Chai, The sn of the goedsmith up their now severing in the Preintless went line one day, found his lings had bonger this Buddha and gave her hele for brugery a face. They friend pictual it my from then and bronger is down to me. To-day Young Seng was up in Aguthin and Pra Wan Chin and his wife were timbled because she had sold in yesterday mouring - There was much region 2 paids 10,000.00 for or. how I really am tom as it is one of the most lovely pieces of Sculpture I have were seen, but here I am with a falir on my hands. It is the most lovely orly as well.

The top of one can pur looken off, otherine Perfect. It weights a ton-Play Serv Days that's the fine way he mentice. The rubbon on the front is a little heavy in relief also. The bend, hands and less are magnificial - I would love to hun while the original is as no Swepton to-day and mour such a figure I am sure. He is about 12th high. brought it to me brongert me a lovely smaller Sulcothai one about a month ago. It is the ligh classic period of the best style 12. In this I only paid 102500, and both tada + Pengsey world like to lay in - Maybe that is

Why I thunk the man thought is this was a fall when he however it this was a fall when he however to me. I have way I would like to heep in her mor at 10,000.00 This 5. I have to go up to Azuthin Surly for the house, so will try + do smith The central block of my lines is any and one of the thing wing wing bally months of the thing wings as soon as I get a good pluster, inches soon as I get a goo

Jan 31 × 1958 Box 906 Banglok.

Many thanks for your letter and the Check.

Other gris well left yearenday.

Out is doing a look on tragen.

Out is doing a look on tragen.

Outso wants to do one on the only human Thai arrise. The mewes human Thai arrise. The mewes of the pictime at war Boronnierg Mour Verna, Paris et etc.

A Ma Bahmer was fust here.

O gencian Muslim, hert of Sast-West Philosophy relations ar UNESCO in Pais . He is doing a book on Buddier are wants

Photos of my Standing Schothai, Seared Subjother and strices head from War Malurar, Sukothan (Connie gove it to me at Khas) and the Guall Caux Stone head. He was very nice, in fact most changing ill ir was ashane UNESCO has been so stupid about the booking Thai ganting Burnag has gree away for a month gers lade of my later acquisition. Had a letter from Carl in Telenan who wants to come lack I would forme. Trying to ger The new lunse ned up en all that take time Sian - Three houses That I mean

have gone up in price so I har to do some bayaing - when the plan is all ser, will held you a blue print. The Tourises have fur beg Communic in - To-day was very active after the her years bull. The Parlette Goddani story did happen in Adema- I gave her my Duir, lur wore a haince the nest of the evening. Bill Klausner gar manud to his Las limbleeger near - Wrote me he is very down about the bookbe done! Writz son affermary

Bry 906 Baughah.

Dear LienMany Thenks for your letter re.

Unexo. The Bushes + Boeles were bere
last might and 2 read it to them.

2 have worked too hand I gress +
Came down with an awful cold
Saturday, So to day being monday

+ Snightan, 2 spent The afternoon

here to try + rest up.

Last week end Joe Huffman +

2 took take Saturday in an army

Jeep for Lopburi, and to find the

Burmere Pagoda lost in The jungle.

We headed for the load to Petalom early Sunday morning. I thought? Newarbered the Jungle track I started down in My HO! man Musix lase year, so we took off into The jungle there and after about 5 very box miles ran hits an old woodsman who said There was nothing down that way, our to go lack to the Petchaboon road and drive till we found The Forestry Degit Har and they could tell us how to ger We finally fruit The Freety Hur with six children ranging from 1 to 6 years who ran upstains and works

He told us to go to Km 113 + turn ruger into the tungle + his Saw mill where they told us to heep on. We crossed a small river and the time to Their line. The track gorthouse + worse. It gor hatter + hotter. at last we got in man primitive village whole one man got out, har a latter of son said They would take use on to the mins. We drow men hand gaddy field and lack into The jungle. We got to a cleaning with a falling down Sala and along the tremandors marled the edge were tremandors marled trangipani trees lut mo rumis -

We thought it was a look buton quide Said, he we much bey n. Amally remains of laterity city walls appeared. The remains of a large artificial lake was in our left. We knoched of the extrans pipe but on we went - a help mude Musuig mother Said she here son ony runs around Their, lura little Maleet log Said beep in to the left. Finally about 2 miles further on we had to get mir wall. By the time there were latents blocks all around. about 1/2 mile on a luga brick town appeared on laterate foundations The brichs were laid up dry + so a kniss bertien Them.

a little further on was another larger tower with a large Vishin infor of ir carved of Golden name stone. His toso was in that feer lying of on The ground and head purlack on, slighty lattered. There were Some Tovely carved plats of stone. Inside the tower was vey wol. In The cewer of it were 2 great Square lakent bloks - thearly ly was a high arricul Hild on mile told us was the golden Mother. Evidents This had all once been a large Klimer Town -The Reple Meanly called it Sri Phy. We 'sound another billege meanly and the old men said This was

the first behicle ever to one in. They bail ten years before a for Farang with a Pooliting had Come in in an ox cart. (Eveluty Duanita Wales). Well lack to Loplani on To Miger. harr morning while the a funcy little man selling charms. Said he would take us to see a collecto. The Collector happened to be a rugged little Chinese + quite a collection had he. He had just been digging 10 meters down a Gliedi ar War Mahatar and ar the bottom after 5 days with 5 men Badellas. Grund turo Diranvati.

One was about 12 wiches lugh, Bronze with great big carls, lovely that ven Two. of offered him 17 m 2 don't have what will of it. I've wants to heap it

He had a small red stone Klumen Standing Buddhe on a Maga. There Seen authy like that Irefre. Then to another collecte on the R.R. Tracks whose aunt used to Jahr care of the Bullha Rom b. Kuig Pragadipole. a very violent lette D'varavati Buddh - me lup way out like a Ram wong dancer. a lette Bronz Klimer- Reches looking me I had ever seen. Medicarina poss - Irrer lace. Klumany appear wonges father had given Lorde little Cheigrong that he called Irvinga - Seved-Meditation with beautiful mechanic arried medi. Leid I with you about the lover Crivipaya Buddha & Imyer fem (mr Kang! 5" hyd honze - very Lovely Irando -To-day my tred Prasir knower me from tryudyon a lovery painting on class of Buddle Settling in hower with all the Samisalso a lovely UTmy mach. The other day he hower me from the monaster of war Pra melina Der of 5 paintings of life aunger the Karens: I war never seen Jude Charming progule pandings in my life - all Durbs and olive and lette frames hunting

Chasing each other etc etc. Goelas had to lear Johns and is during to stay there, hur has wife of Onlinearin Harrand. a real Indlaw mind - Farmere So than griswold - What ashane he does that have money. He has been to every ruin in Endown. axcelleur photos - To-Munow he is having Burnay prototy 29 scenes from the life of Buddlington here a dull moment here-I have some I Tong gold plaques & don't hum what to do with. with som- after,

took the share method - R blade, Vodba and Koonie Jake. Peny Ses

well but Truinial paid too I de as he is very Datch Triffy. In Burghol he were hour been at least My Sister Strin took lack four gold plaques V-Tony for War Rap burning decided in you footish to heep them have as they would only be. 2 told her to contact you new your along them is may'r Mazi women liber them. 2 that Il 00.00 appear is all regar for e sunch some from fing sold they are not only very rare, lur)

War R. was sould up is The 15" Contary so these are before that Soon 2 will have photos taken . of all the new acquaiting to song Boelas, Os Huffman r D go to Petalitait to- Minow. There is onderful Pan Shivipaya Ba yuner. Bronze about 12" in trefe and the moss there yellow green Pa the friend is as Smathani. I of the never . He works book about it for his mother

Comatin, but I understand be wants to Dell W. 2 Saw it along 2 weeks ago. Her we go ago: Jules the price is reductions Someday 2 will write a broken an arriclet about trying land and brilding a house in Stain-Every So often 2 want to hidren and their My feat in The rin year in this sumy chearful Enough yourself, 2 Think you to how when I dan you's things. Mary Sawford was purshed her magner open about me on The Sartuday Every Post. Hiras

Dwoland 2 think I could ger booked ar every woman's Outin The USA. She has the most exaggarles ideas ulmome, but I guess its all good publicates Sue années July 4th. Took Kamal to Agather Dear Sunday. He has pertiter about opens really Classical Stames May 7 Sur in Funghin Park. Just get the order for all the Jacrico for Barbara Huttons new palace in mexico - the all happened a month via Polor. morety after she had let have. one is going Standy with May

. Step Repres Mass. 2 got Kand to be then quide while there were hele, as he is nowpersing by the fort having resigner when the return from the WA where he broker at pung B and Donaham maderia. The rain is comming down They Perceptly - gratemous Peny Song lias a 200 Kilo itel grang Donomicali I P 2 Herry a dealer in L. or aulian Sig

P.S. From Sunday where the to Jophun and Saraha King Privatting It of Kay Marai, to stay in his funcies, with lovery herers Plentz Certo Photograph of exquisite Thepaums, Herverset The Irulay is durch affarkuntaly 637, aloner 30 years older tran my house in greenable Delan Distribute: Since you tell there.

22 April 1958 Box 906 Dear Lisa The Though Collection has almost gotten out of dans. Have fuer adjused a small Early Chrengen linze Buddles from Mr. Kang. Mos I have everythey from Pre. Dismusti, Domavari, Srivinga Klunga UThong, Sulcothan and 10-day Peng Seng Dronger over in a truck with three men to carry it a huge Fortini Buddua (linestone) that's sitting in my garder under the flood light of Phil georges -

I Saw the Jugue up in Agulia one My way back from Trillera (Hour por been reading Quantich Wales). 2 thought is looked so exercise never even ashed the price. Several weeks later Tim Krusi was here from Son Francis on a brying tom. I said he stoned of Peny Seny to take him to guthia - When They gar back on Said did I wour a lovely orderni figure for 3000. Swilety Said he would have longer is ar 2500. 2 sail if he are get ir for their I would give him 3000.

So have Sunday when I went popich up a Mender Buddha, there was the grear while Loplani Buddhe from Chairer or To-day the linger Or over and pur ir in The garden. Surve Mongokan would sell the head inthan the body in about 5000 So 2 men 2 die all right without really wanting it. Tada had been trying to bry it so Peny Sery was tember of it getting ir. Tada is opening & Slip hen The Erawan where Comic has a beautiful me now. I tell Tada's will the a Tropeo. Well enger of Barbake antique Busy



Here is a previous Unistmas card. The pamers is still browning pits of My load Maillien buch and me wome according to Bostus +1 plean, The Shinger Buddler & alour six in The museum as is, I low most as good condition Belas Calls or Pre-Aughor. I know the History of the Subsolution repaired - Druss given to me ever Xmay - Will with Sm

Sunday. The river was a flowing torrent. The same boutman took us He remembered you - The abbott also remembered the Pooliging who pleasingly the some relief. The underbrush has almost completely covered the nums -Enclosed are some plutos goz Huffman took ago stopping at Phanu's office en route. De Sulathan tigues were in an old war off the Road to Hun Him -Both lovely figure. The ablor got them about five years ago - one to 100 tiels, The

other for 580 Rests - quel Chance! The UTong Buddle I got last November -He is 18" high and in very good andising except for a few looks that don't show up too much. He is a very thin casting, but then most U-Tings are -I found lim in a goldsmits in Mally beautiful. So far I lear brief a bulkbeak along the Keny, pur in 150 . Truditodo of duray. Inier a beautiful Teah Jence on me Side of the property. Do wike son - aune marie has never told the where the Thai Painting or Burner Pagestre Har a mawelow of rather the sers of Jadohs - very beargest very old, recently arguest.

3M of August 58 BOX 966 Int trust you will get This letter Suclosed is a photo of a figure ) fruit in Agritin last november buch came out of a per in Surin Province. She is Bronze, 10" light and the most lively crusty green pay parties with a lot of very blue outeroppings on her. She is much more during their Lopburi type as he Lopburi ladie are not augustes near as pretty are Shapely as this. after I longer be shapely as this after I longer we her I found Peny Seny and Carrol we had been after then for a long time

lost 2 guess would have pay the Price. O2 gave 4000 Trais for her which I don't Think is light on Such a pretty creatine as this. Never can remember her hame but you most probably can. Saw Tada to-day who has a remarkable looking sealed Eugen Style Dvaravar Budlen almor & ligh. He has a real sharp Thin face with as if he had a lot of silver in him and weight a lot. He wanted 40,000. Trul for in which I Think is reduculous for a price in Baughol. 20 came from braham Pathon. He also has one from Knur That Quanth Wales was elluwrated in

for this he wants 30,000 Trials which Es also too high a price by for. Had deiner ar Bible Rlausners. Last Niger. He has a spacisis house for 1000 Print per months full of Stanier Painting and Balinese drawing - Rey hept the windows Shut all evening to heap our The vari. His wife peens like a very nice good woman, but he does not look too well- I am afraid a complete Stames life is War too good for a tregies. Writz the som about what you are doing and going to do? affectionately

Box 906 JANGKOK 20 Aug 58 Dear Lisa -Very sorry to hear low the Conserval Transfes, and really take Care even if its dull to take Care of your self. Unfortunately those walking Buddhas belong to an ablatt south of Rellowing and mar me. The Kluner Phen disagree about her. Phanin or Tada Say She is Agatha Period Klumer lor

lx hendy rare, and both wanther. Ferroci Say She is Lopbunia tahe. Doeld's Says she is Cantodian Klimer and far from being a fake. Phay Sery r Carol Wa were dy to by her. So there! Drawyou own conclusions. P.S. alex gusured Said she was obviously Jahr. Bur be seens to think that almo eventing in the house. Ferroci Say The Domavar Budda I tout in Loplani is the most beautiful Bronz: Dunavar he has ever Deen. 2 also have two recente acquired sets 10/ Jataha) Pairling that he wants to exhibit at The The Latinas look very much

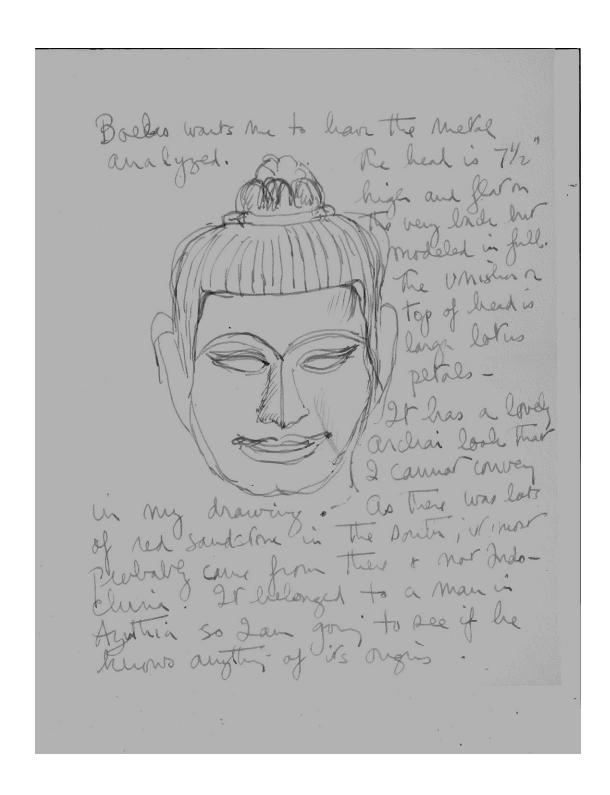
libr Sabrador Dali Fardsayus. Reg Came from Ban Pachi where The RR. branches of to the Month - Month East. He thuilis they are Agatha Period. The Colors + details are lovely -Very imaginative compared to the usual Sterotyped Staness Paintuys. life of the Thai and Karens. Very Marie Famerain Colors and fregile dealtsmanship, and a Terrific Dense of huma in some of the Jignes. There came from War ha Pramare in Aguttia. where The by Tawa Bridde is. Ferroci also says my sealed Subothar Buddha is a very bey have type and also the Lophuri Buadla torso muristhetop

of its head. He + with wow here Faraday might for during with the Manteh's along with the Edin of Mademoissle Magazine a Tyris Cochrail duid, mikin from Wig. Michael Field, Coney. In Lindon Times & wife ( hier of Frenchandle + MEME SZC) were also here - a van strange even end lots of Jun as The Freeds Speak fluir Italia and Mademoissalle Trylor evening divine and I sold her 2 work Eun to take in the gold plagues as I need money. I hope you realize how rare they are.

6 Sept 58 Baugher Dear Lisa -This has been quite a weekthe Maitreyn arrived from germany and I got a beariful small some head from Commie Manysham, either pre-aught or Strivipage. as the head is regal Sandstone it is I will get photos of both and Sent is to the Leyden much a long time ago and they Turnel is down as a Spaliz and not dethetically planing.

Some Man in Jermany eventually bright ir, and Omo gullah who now lives in Jermany gar ir lach from him and sent ir to me. It is not large but some alloy of Tin + Sliver. Boelas Awears tratin is me of the masterpress of Smirger art and wants to publish it again Evidents mr gullade had done to in 1925 in Some german magazine It is a beautiful figulige no matter when it was made. Ferrocci huns the piece and days its a fahr livelest not lange 2 doit see how it coust. It's a very smooth deep grey orn

The figure Atands 16" lugs, and has a long Turnic and says it is much fine Than



The posts and walls of my cools house are up, and the fundations almost done for my house - a lot of activity gots on there now. Yi is in the lioping for Two weels with a Sharp whe sin of the food + leg 2 went to a Baby Party lost night. Older people look a little gruni tresset up as balas. How do you like you new pt? affectionately

8 Septober 58 Box 906 Baughoh. Many thanks for your letter 14. The gold plades- It was My failer as Their was the enveloper 2 gave them to Elmin in- Yes \$100.00 aprilie is OK by me. They are very beautiful and 2 would love to keep them bur I did not know where to Dur them. They would be beautiful on black Marble. Nazli shorred do well with Them as they are Unique.

There are none to be had here howmost of them were mashed into golf bours by the robbers. The crypt they came out of was larly 15th Century or late 14th. They showed go in a How you gotten my letter with the pictures of the markeys in it? Show them to nazei. Bris a Superb figure. It grows on me. Prince Physis calle d'in - to Klum anworn Il he grave in 1922. Klum anworn gan is to Mr gulder in 1930. I bryering from the widow now. Tada wants to bruy it from me, but Langues

23 Sept 1958 Box 905 Bangleon. Dear Lisa of the Mailings - Two photos of the Ramer (Mrs 2 hour ngotten its Nane, 2ts 6" lugs. and a new first + rear photo of the gupta Buddler. Yesterday 2 exchanged one standing Small V-Tong for a very magnified Seaved Kluver Buddles with one of

Trose very strong faces. It seems to be an exact duplicate of one clestrated in the Muser's book on Wat Rayabruans. 9 think you said Suplied one smene gove In one of the books - He () - the Buddha isthout the har Just curls + wishs - He las Belonger to an old man in Ayuther for a great many years-Tous house is finished an we begin pulting in the posts In more Next week. It's getting citury. Must run off to

3 Nov 58 DOX 906 hot a word from yon. Did
you live get all the photos 9
Sent you? I hope they got
through as I sent a lot in one
envelops a long time ago
whelops a long time ago
Muriel has been here for 10
days and went on to India for
a month. How been very brig with lots of troubles thrown in Ital to fire to slast week as he had been wiring Poison pen letters to The

the Revenue Dept and Sugar Directors + weavers names. This all because our accountant had told Prance's consin that Tos was a bad Man. Prance is our very good little Bill worker, who liggers to be Tos! Dept would unverligite our accombat. Insterd I gave him the don as this is his third misdenen The House progresses in spik of The Ordillect have made the most maccurate drawings. We have to tear would not be really Siamese if we did hard Suppose. Have put Proof-real hoels look.

Its very gay and light reading hothers
upoch making- but good to Read in
a plane the first time one travels
to Siam. a mice amusing resumee nothing more. I am tired and world weary with the troubles of the Company and the troubles of brilding but that is better than nothing. Our laker Irg Customers are Denmard + Italy Dormuda slined be ablaze inth our violent pinhs, oranges, greens, Traquoises and plaids of the above. Harr Shipped about 2008 goods don Do write Som. I miss you letters very much when you doll !-

19 hor 1958 BOX 906 Baugkoh. Many thanks to your lotter 2 am glad for the Comments on the Mairingh. Minday night Dr. Por of Leyden Museum, Supar, Boelas On + mo Fixer boxer of The Duke rulassy all dured here - alm the same thing went on as at your Mazli Partz about The Maithey Boclas Swears up and down that he will prove it's authorice. the dealers Wher Peny Seny + Tada here say it is Snirstaya and that The Metal is

very old. Well two will tell I hope. Why did Prince Phys give or away as a present 1923? Maybe be had doubts. But he is long Dince dead so we can't ask him I have had so many awfel experience with my line due to the Enchiled that I won't write about any of ther. In Spite of everything in should be beautiful some day about the book, in usual be Wonderful to have Skinado ir-Burbefre ir is ever published you and Elving should come lack do lots of water has run men The damme Schoe you were look here.

(1) The Paintings in Wat Rajaburana 1 The painting in The Care or yell 3 the Daving in War Chain on the way to angling. (Agathin lains) A The Agustin period Paintings in The Kurg rest house on the river between Agathia Darahini 5 Two Ress of Paintings That I have acquired, that Fenocial thinks are Densalimal genge Biddle was here Salundas + Okushos nothing along Than panting lu as an arrist bavel almir their without being told to - Just Singled then out in My house -

(publishes) Whovever does, the book should send you back as I think you would Said out a lot more how than you did before. The also sylve a in mes mud over a period When are you going to Lecture in Washington? If hope Siste. Shin is notified well in advance-ger the Popes to take her as she loves them. Where is Care? when We are exporting tromands of literally) to Italy, The Virginia looking ar Sillis - Munich here Scholan! Well good Ronks gr

26 April 1959 Box 906 Bangholi Mary tranks on your loose letter.
Mever gat the one lefter- what did
you think of welmington? The reason
I liour most written is because? have her able to with for alone to 3rd, the about of war Kulawan and light priess bressed The chance - 2 stayed here on 3 nigers along with about 20 carpenters - Then & weeks ago, Mr. Kavakita packed me up

and in two days moved 14 Truckloads down here and me This house took a lot of fixe; all the time - Als Heramareh ancied along My first everyigh the liouse and came for a drink - She is a little odd got Boelas in to meet her. I fast night 2 had 120 silk Weavers, Members of Thai Silk Co, Mr. UThai, Standard Tailor, PengSeng, Kamol ek ik in for a lig Thai Islam dumer which my brilder Mái Fele Cooked with the help of the local lays from Ban Klina The

USIS donated Myries - Klun Prasir honger his 4 host dancers, one of which is the Dures Than Classical Lancer 9 Chair den for years - We are under the liense, Saw movies in the Courtyard and workdood dancers on the terrace - Ir fregner at 6 - all mer av 10 PM and was a wonderful party - Math arranged most of ir aliched - I was so afind in would not - Received to lunga grandfither clocks amongst other plesents - wish you had been here for it all - Hopz you are all hale to

hearty and Thar you are all recovered and in good health In will leave to see this louse 3 Meday - The last sulptime is all in Miches lit overhead - I can't pur as much around as in the old liouse, but whats displayed can be seen. Its ashane Ewing was not lieve to photograph. last mights - party as it was colorful to pay the least -Suched is a plats of the day the lipse was plessed - me cover of the Ling Room - 2 love nor Turned Buddlier if That's what This looks like Just levereur Heo loves his new lime-wik som-love I in

22 November 1959 Box 906 Bangkok

Bear Elinor:-

I have just come back from a most interesting week-and in the jungle near the Cambodian border where we found three beretofore unrecorded and practically unknown Cambodian Temples. Even the That did not know.

Friday, after work, Don Bocklen of USIS, who three weeks ago had made an attempt with me to get there but we failed due to mad - Joh Boelas, a Dutch suthority on S.E. Asia, and myself started off in a landrover for Arenya Pradet, the frontier town into Canbodia - We got there about 12:30 P.M. and slept for four hours in a local hotel, and left at down for the jurgle north of Arenya -

There is no real road, but there is a space used by lumber trucks to get in and out of the jungle - You can drive between 5 and 10 miles per hour.

After 2-1/2 hours through the forest, we came to a lovely little village of 500 souls with a handsone wooden temple surrounded by Palms and Bob trees - blue mountains in the distance, ripening rice paddies - We talked to the abbott of the tample (who had the most wooderful black felse teeth). Told him we were hunting for the lest temple of Sa la Mob - He took us into his temple where there was the most beautiful life sized stone seated Buddha in the Madra of Contemplation - This had been brought in a long time teek from Sa la Mob. Strongly rescabled Ming Jays varuan 7th who had become a Buddha in his lifetime back in the 15th century - Had built the Bayon and the famous buildings at and mear Anghor (You saw the Bayon).

We found one old and one young men who said they would take us to the rains An hour and a half later we arrived in a great grassy area that had been a most with an
island of large trees in the middle. In we sent own a huge laterik well to the inner
valls three hundred feet in from the most - it was all cool and green with 150-ft high
trees - ferms of every description, air plants, shefts of sunlight - a great walled inclosure of sandstone and laterik - Great towers 50 ft. high still portly standing - piles
of gigantic stones carved with danging Boodisatus, Acarthus leaves, and other decorations Knidenhair ferms growing out of every crevice - strange birds calling in the trees - blue
and orange butterflys flying through the shafts of sunlight -

Boelas and Rochlen took photos, our guides slept and I sized up the architecture and the extent of the rules.

see anythe percel states.

The young man told us of another temple about mir miles north - Eventually having run into a stream, chopping down trees to get the landrover out, we errived at the second site called "Tup Sion" a much smaller enclosure all of Cyclopean laterike blocks

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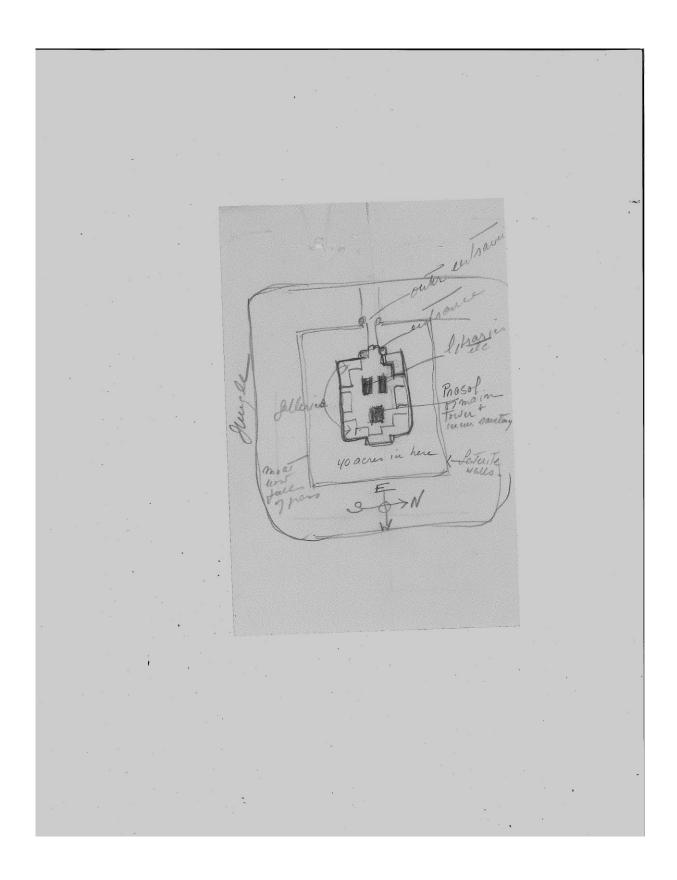
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We found one old and one young man who said they would take us to the ruins - An hour and a half later we arrived in a great grassy area that had been a moat with an island of large trees in the middle. In we went over a huge laterik wall to the inner walls three hundred feet in from the moat - It was all cool and green with 150-ft high trees - ferns of every description, air plants, shafts of sunlight - a great walled inclosure of sandstone and laterik - Great towers 60 ft. high still partly standing - piles of gigantic stones carved with dancing Bhodisatns, Acarthus leaves, and other decorations - Maidenhair ferns growing out of every crevice - strange birds calling in the trees - blue and orange butterflys flying through the shafts of sunlight -

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see vough percet sheter.

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the remains of a prasad or tower and sanctuary in the middle made of brick with limestone lintelsek - and the remains of two other small buildings inside the walls -

-2-

I drew up the plan, they took photos, the guides looked for orchids in the jungle - It got hotter, more oppressive, darker - strange birds called - Just as we thought we should leave, Boelas went to look at the limestone uprights of the entrance to the prasat - and found 27 lines of inscriptions on either side - We could see where the dates were, etc. - Feverish photographing of inscriptions - maybe a whole chapter of Carbodian History - then the rains came down hard - back to the village - The abbott did not even know of this ruin till we told him -

We spent the night in the Sala or open building of the temple - The whole village watching us eat our supper of canned baked beans, barbequed chicken breats, oranges and a can of prunes, washed down with rainwater and Ballentine's whiskey - One villager said he know of a huge stone statue about six miles away and told our two guides how to find it -

At dawn the next morning off we went in search of the third site - Eventually we came on a clearing in the jungle - rice paddies - a little thatched pavillion with a life sized Sandstone statue of Shiva under it - complete except for hands and forearms - back of him was a smaller headless statue of Uma his wife - There all about 9th-10th century, way before Angbor - Behind was a great mound all covered with masses of weeds with sweet smalling whik blossoms - The farmerhad excavated into the mound, and the brick walls of the prasad or tower were there, with limestone lintels - Shiva had been dug out two years before. The large Yoni was still in place on the floor - a large piece of stone representing Uma's sexual parts on which the statue of Shiva had stood - Boelas said Shiva's headdress was the most perfect he knew of for Canbodian figure. The decoration was a crescent moon and an inverted question mark which represents the universe D but we had to get back to our other two sites to finish photos and measuring, etc. - great masses of salmon pink flowers grew along the way - We stopped by a tree called the Whik Carnation Tree - 50 Ft. high dark shiny leaves - sweet smelling white blossoms like a carnation - Blue water lillies in a pond near it -

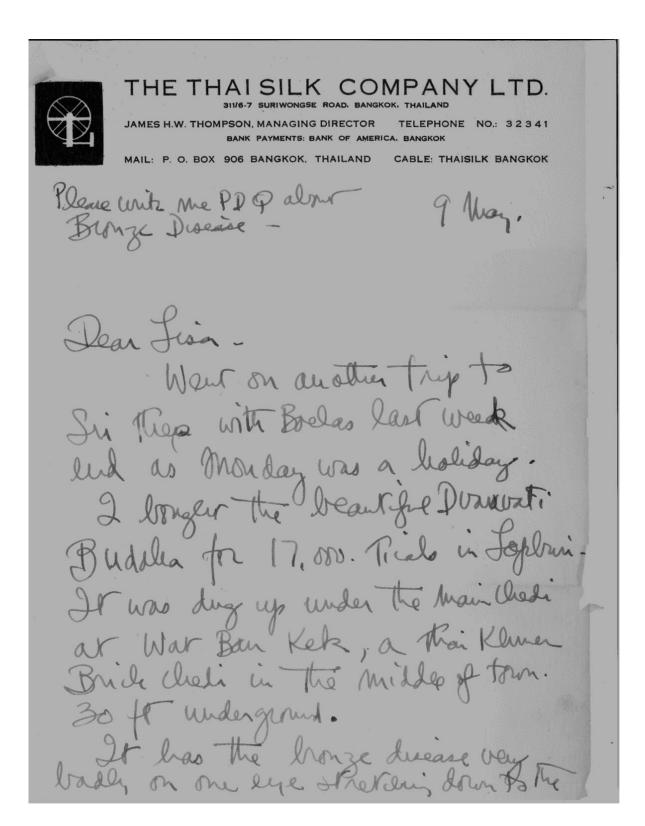
At 2 P.M. back in the village - After making an offering to the Temple, the abbott let us have three stone heads of Bhodisations, and I found in the grass outside, a limestone Yoni with a linga on top - the joint organs of Uma and Shiva - The abbott let me have it - Boelas says it must be 7th or 8th century - Only other known one in Siam is in the museum in Bangkok - Very very rare -

About 14" square. It is Pre Klmer or Indian period

We hated to leave and I drove the landrover 8 hours back to Bangkok with a 30 minute stop at Aranya for supper - back here by mid-night. Today hundreds of orders yo be filled - Thaibok seems to have come to light or life - Rochlen brought over slides tonight of Sa La Koh, Tup Siom, inscriptions, Shiva's, etc. etc. all in color - Its amazing how fast they can develop all this - The people at the museum will have to decipher all the inscriptions.

Later Monseir Coedes in Paris will have to interpret them. Do show this letter to John Pope - also if you could forward it to Elizabeth Lyons, 514 Hudson St., N.Y.C as I haven't time to write another. We are swamped with work and tourists - sold over 60,000 ticols of silk today. Not me but the staff - Mrs. Robert Mitchum and all sorts of types - between archeology and silk there is never a dull moment.

Much love,





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Month. He is so beautiful I don't in to disentegrate. Bloides en treatment, there mustbe replieurs have been here



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Dear LisaMany thanks for your letter. By
the thire you get this you will mo
don't have administed the last
rights for Carls departure.
All sorts of people hours been thin
recently. Mr. Kleyman (Paul Berner Bly)
brought a life Dize Divarrance. Head
in white quarts from Peny day.

Suppose or will get to noy is almost
2 Months.

Stella Kramnish was here yesleday
for 24 hours - Speur most of the time into



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Supat and som my home in 15 munutes when her plane was delayed an lion. She will spend 5 months in India to finish up her hew book. She told me Super told her the Museum is doing a book on Their Pairly -I saw the exhibition of the pleases, which of course do not compare with Ewings. the only thing is they do leave the Crypt of War Raphuman, The Can at Vala and the Agosting Subalhan Fres Coes included, more of which we have. Stella also told me the best colo



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MAIL: P. O. BOX 906 BANGKOK, THAILAND. CABLE: THAISILK BANGKOK

reproductions in the world are done in Donlay now, and for much less than figual is Something to

2 Jan 1960 Box 966 Banglerle-Dear Fisa Happy New Year & Many tranks on your letter - Dowie and Tomieta are lat unk and 2 don't him him well- griswold has gone lime Bowie las asked me to Jake Care of the painting and wants me to fluit 12 drig ones which is a rather tall order - 2 am combig the dealers and telling them who good publicity is would be for them to Shop - It should really be beautiful

when I get Turne, and alone The only good looking me in Banglook. The outside is black maible frame - old Cinnabar red paired Teals to look the glass- Black, gold + red doors with old Agullia Panels of They farms Ser in blue glass - 9ts on Surrory near us - The inside is done in the first old weathered Elimese Style Shalves which Carl helped design - awagin love noettes in the ceiling to holy The awagin glass inverted Haman scrades -2 went to Surida Proving

Christmas night with Boelas. We found 5 Klumer Muins betherts unhtown to me - One ar Sou Klinapour le feels is tendes emparant as the Towers might be the fremmen of Suhalhai towers - They land gigantic lovers Indo of stone on top of them with a stone finial above that. also saw the most benefel very early stone Johnsevara about Three feelings at Prasar ann- One of The really near plees of 10° Contay Sulydene 12 found a 9° Contay Fanka or Suglielese Bronze Buddhe with

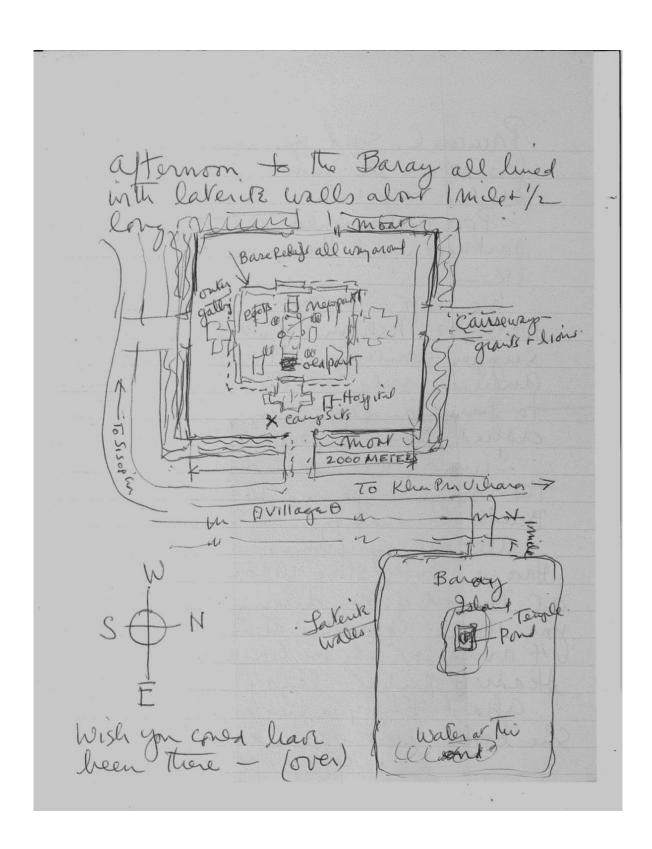
lovely Parina - Will have then photographed along with other new aguisticis to send on Have a large Bronze Early and also the most mavelous Bronzo Klimer Sealed figure. & workmanship? seen - He Came is not Toplini Style at all low the purest Klimen-Har never seen this position before

Have a beautiful octoqual Suhahai Sawar baloke contagnal for with top on it - Pale guey designs with a Colar misty blue overglase on The designs -Yesterday I found a piece of a lose relief yesterday on o Rials av Agullia env I gave The man 100 foir to encourage luin to find more of ir. Draws the gray green Diarani stre with the heads & forsos of thee ofragines and part of a tree on ir. The figures have hando's like My Controversial Bliodisation

2 Can presalour Raised 17,000 Ticals for The Blind I chool the last six weeks admissions to the house Smerser Manghan is consto due the 6th Hail J.B Phere here the other night and before that Tenesee Williams - quel also turned in Some Things to Councie Manyshan for a beautiful 2nd Premost V Try Head - number Stop for Jen

22 July 1961 Box 906 any trans on all your letter humphot, Prince Chalermphot, re Danes (anlarada) and Boeles (climis h.y) on The Siy to Boeldon + I went and ar 6 AM on The Bom own departed for Bantei Chauman. Partip, Somer, Pirsiman, Chalenylol MiR. VI vat & wife, 6 assorbed your helper, drivers, me chanics, cook etc were 3 landrovers, I feet at Sisopher across The Carbodian lorder deladiment of Cambodian Troops in a Weapons carrier picked us up -We left Sisopher ar 2:30 Par and after 65 Kilos across rice gaddies, Jungles (over)

and deserts, we arrived about 8.30 PM av Banker Climnan - By mid-miger we had pitched caup, blad dumen and open to bed in the darkness - In the showing we found we were within the lastern gots of the outer walls, located in a very strategic position - I could not wait to see The runis, so I took off right away Through the Center of their, then walked around the owner circumperence \_ 2000 x 2500 melers inside the most The original temple is lovely Brahmanic or Vishnuistic - Very delick Carved linkels, marvelns agsaras r davarpalas, learsful foliage Decration - this part all along 11th Century - then in the 13th Jazavanne The It really let himself go all ratter crude compared to the earlier work, all Buddist Rodlen & Chalempol Photography for two day - Princers Chief Smen If the troops + I went over me



Mucas C. Said you were one of the lew women she sliked like to go on Such a Trup with. · Por Boeles and not go, as his partners had been cashing trad checks We left Sar. moning The 18, got back to nation nagolie 11 por with Supper waiting - Prelies up two anercian girls at The Inder marring to Bought from Plum Penn-Princes asked them to spend the weekend-Sunday we swam and walked up Back to reality Sunday miger-All lots of fun-How a lovely stone Vishnu from Surindr ar The end of my dining Room. Think you would approve - about I mere light-of arms but only one hand left on mean. Headress perfect legs o feeting oder She looks sweet- write som afterfreter Jin

have you very much for som latter about the Viction extent Elte. Did ym get My letter about Dantei Chuman? I wrote you a long one allow it with Booles etc. Fort week I had a Cleaning up and from your planter from Yala Yearenday I could have ind is low will lian a real earth for it after I furish

in Siam and will be here till May 186. He will be in Newyols three days and looks forward to seeing you as he spoke very lugarly of have been so long pust with Sille That I don't really know what has been going on antiqueurse on I am making an allow of all the Sculphine in This liouse mainly My own Salisfaction and also for bell the lady gludes - Nipon has taken the best their pieces au Rodrelen is doing the mun places Myon has done beauties of the Kliner Magadrobs - New Wishne - and the

Two Tawa Pieces - Doelas is going to do a Short article to Alton Asia of the Klumer Bronze-Stone Vishing and Two Tagwa pieces as 2 think he feals guswolds last effort was ridiculous on fruico Dhanis 14" Centry Frong Stupa and The little Agullia Bronze that Cery Sery and I found in AgnThia for 100 Treals once - Boelas is Junishy up the article on Mandocovylays which he began a year ago. It should be very Scholarly. One of my Suhothai Buddhas than 2- Turned by the to Plug Seng because

you and Juany Doubal said it Was Johns, The Museu has demanded he give it to Them - a very rare Diece - who is one to believe! I lian a Marvelow New Subothai for from The Music Styp. The most beautiful floral designs, very very July drawing on it's Alx Sides I am not much of a one for Polley Int This is so delicate. The designs look almost Persian I also have two very handsme platter Suhethai or Sawan balter That Commie lind Sold to Mis Kettering (G Motods) and the Museu would morgan a Remitt on them and said she had to give to The Museum, so Cominie

gor made and gave them to othe - they are Mor the hims ) really like but they help the Collection -IBEC (Nelson Rodis organization) wants me to work on scien printed Silles - If it works will send you a piece to lecture in - Gerenday 2 fruit 5 beautiful fragments of them for designs Clas Went to War Boronniver and War Benjama to See the Tawa's and They look beary and Un inspired Compared to Mile - live there is more of them than mine Must stop with som - love in

12 May 1961 Hear Lisa -I have been Tember about writing, but as well I have had people here every night since I dan hups when except when? Ferrocci, Cremans, Boeles, Rockelon were here the magtit before Coron aus loft. Still and mor ful the

Plaster from Vala -Darlan Hutten , her new Young man had an large dunner with me to migur In legrar 8:30 to gots Mai dancing - So ar last 2 have time to Suice you left, hour fruid a Stone Vislem Grom Surin, and Two Sundays ago found a mavelous Which Peny Sen led Tunes

Mahr a New Pehring Near Chrengman for Filming Marco Polo - He Irves Klumer + Diranavari air, and was dichen with Carol In her Bassac hear Which he got down to 3000. dollar - Perg Seg a Klumer herd for 800.00 and Capital antiques for then Straws Klumen-UTong lead head for 3050. Whar he finally got 2 don't huper,

The dealers were all arriv as to what he was gong to Now The Museur Days Types Tawa ar The Mer. is a Jahr and The original is Still here - 2 told P.S. This and he roared with langester - Maybe its a face saving der ce 290 to Chiengmai Sundo and will miss The Vice P. and his Fadzbrid -2 have left Charles in clarge

20 May 1961 Baylire.

Dear fisa.

The Catalogue (Vier) & Cleveland
Bulletin answed. Many many Thanks.

Where are you and what are yndowy?

Fast Sunday I flow up to Chicupman

with Math where we worked on Silks

+ coffens for two days in Lampun and

Pasan. I have mever been the

Combry look so beautiful + fresh

after the larly rains. All the

Am rights + Fire balls were in bloom

and the Ixaa bushes were masses of

Pink and range flowers.

We are Making more beautiful brocales than ever up there - they look fut for Museums Tuesday we clubed over Doi Sutters to the Meo Village when I got a beautiful costume to display to the Tourisks in the House - all undigo blue batch with fanastic dubordered borders in Shoching pinh and orange That afremon we drove down to augur Hod on the Me Ping - The Fine and had ex cavaled the four handsome Chedis and all had give to Banglish, Inr) Wanted to see what it looked like before mundation - It was a charming pair of the country -Back home Wed. and got a glupise of Lady Bud Johnson in sur Shop Thinsday

dong last monent slopping befreshe left for Delhi -My only new acquisition is a 10" Bronze U-try head-really beautiful Strong face, defr chin etz from Wanchai -Pierz Senz called on me this evening and has just left - I asked him why he lood nor longer it. He said it had been Stolen from a Tengle + lody destroyed, so he was afraid to get in, Inv he Said O-Kay for me as I was like a Museum! I only paid 2000 In ir - Ir Slined have been at least 15 n 6. 2 don't Thuik you ever Saw My Vishmi who is now in the middle of the Dung Room instead of the old Dark wood Buddha - Suclosed is a photo of him

Rochlan wanted me to go to Rathlani with the New aubassado & lui to- Monas as they are excavily a lot of Tawa tung the Bar 2 tole Councie M. I when go look at a thai House in Agusting and told War Chai I would Come book at a green stone blumen bread he has, so Rathelmi will have to wair Here is a clipping abourir -There is always a lot going on here ir seems - Care is gon; to Agultica with Me to- Minnor Do with Don -

Study June 4,61 Barglioh. Dear Lisa Mis PM I went to see an awful exhibition of 10 Rate French Painty get the bad tasts our of my month, I wanded over to The Museu. Carl turned up - 2 Saw the young man who always wants to Speak English, so 2 thought 9 miger as well put him to some use and asked him if he would open up The Storage noom and show

us what had been bronzer up from Ratburi - He ran around , gor his boss, and in we went The tables and Shelves were consed with Irits and pieces of Tema Cotta -One frame was a life Dize head, Small his of body + Two legs Quother lovely head on a body that had the real Indian Turer Introlly Irelow the knees - Rows of Small ling, luch Some Duall elephants - Bur Then are about five heads the leks of which I have her seen they are so beautiful, I Think any of them mugier be more beautiful than the Tena Cotta head of The Buddhe

Stucio Diaranti pieces look Primilior + crude dy Companism -They need a special room, with going lighting and nothing less than ophai Sille as a background, and ir would take liveyones health away The breit glance I got of them Made me feal They were the most I very thing I draws seen in this Country yer- The faces have a Strength + Sumplicity That is lacking un Fudian Sulptine, Int a roshamed Sensuosness That heavenly beings Should down - Tema Cotta was Certainly The Medin That suited The Myons best to work with -

Withour The proper lighting These Hung world be nothing, but when we held Then up with The electric light coming down on them they came to life and were somethy to behold-I wish you could see Them -Jam P.S. That must have cone from there - It's nothing great, a Rather round far Chembric face with a flowered head dress on inan very long printing silles -When I make one That will sur you dud is really beautiful, will Did one the other day that looks

Just as if ir belonged in Wuntertun or Williamsburg - The design I took from an old cotton panung of the larly 18005 - Its all leaf smalls with medalicons of leaf designs, dre in deep reds, indigo and bladish green on a beige bachground. The Medallins are a dust 3 mustant gold colo Lantures were here all week. His Cousin Married Coal de Remusal, and the Counters is a great studing Sashem autiqueles - also a friend of Lypes - Besturdes + love

31 May 1981 Box 906 Bayash.

Dear Lisa Many thanks for your letter
with the News of the Chiengien griswold - Sugher Tests - Its very
welcome to me - 2 called Breles
unned intely - He was to see Ferocci ar
where about it to the Museum
brack here about it to the Museum
on Sunday, Boelas, Rochelen and I
doors down to Ratburi to see
the excavation the site they are working on mont,
which is one of 30, is a real madennealour 10 farmers with picks + shovels

Crashing + digging away or the base If a Stupa - a your man from the Stine arts asley in the Irch of a feep. about 300 people from the country side on top of the Slupe, around the stupe and There coming from all directions, on fort, on brighes, in jeeps - Gredonals Set up around The base - Everym drinking Coke, laking Cury ekek-Even Tada anwed in a feep with the Garange and his wife \_ 2. the Executions) out a lovely Terra Cotta -1 on, but They broke lum in half knoched a leg off They don't much where Is the comes our of - Every Miger sent heads, Torso's ek up to

Sventy- in the way of Buddha Blodisavirs, decharins floral otherwise is Tena Cotta I als 7 Conting - Just about like Pra Para + hatrame from Nahm Pathon Sofar Mitting extravagour, burits Interesting and complete chassbegin excavaling all the other

OKZB took Photos, so 2 gness Rochole will send you some -We Stopped at War Maharari 25 Raylani on the way lack and they a lide dug up three more Tawa Tosos & muis heads around the prang. The beautiful one inside The bot is now completely crached in half and leaved against The back of & Ratuahosin Buddha out of sits is about the most beautiful Buddle in Scan ludden away - Dr showed I be in The exhibit in The Stakes Who can love Teach These People IT low to excount Resignaly and also Take can and appreciate Their most

5 Jan 1962 Dear Lisa Hate just returned from a Tryp to Petchelon + Sni They with - which was Ethan Emery + Kurt Duccessful Gryn I would Boeles to go but he hat a meeting of the Research Brown -to-day + cnex Friday muger we drove to haplan + Saturday money drove stranger up to The Mountain, Keras Samo. Rlat, Mean Sri Thep, There is a Tunkn nood wito the love of the mountain Phere we from some schacks + perale was worked the Trumber. They better

all almor the cause - a long of almor 12 paid he would take us up The mountain to it - We had Two wordsmen called to us and said They knew the way - We were formed

at The Same Time My Bhodisalon That 2 got, with the by head - On mayers, Wolf Jadapushys + Mr Wolfas muse have come from this court Garl The Bliodisaturo had m san Tunics to the knees with a drape to the Dodies - etc -Chrother Caux nearly has been Sealed up + that no doubt was where my first three heads came Then we started to hum for a figure in the round of a Domain Buddler, but They part The soldiers had taken the head of work

merer did find it \_ also we Trought we lotter that unseal The other Cash as They Deemed Superstilins !or something about it. The opening to the ling care had been dignamited much when by the police and most of The Statactites were Irohen off But most of the bodies are in tact + beautiful - Some priest had painted in yellow paintall over the Big man the date he had visited the care Maybe it can all be restored Someday - I would like to make

in two weeks - the next holiday The police + army had both Neuroved Tungs and dynatmited The place - ent then no me would hour ever discovered it I suppose if they lad T - Ethan took photos without flash, but we will go Inch the 18th with full photo Egup ment and I luge with Books of as it would be a great feather in the cap of The Research Center. The drive to retchalor was beautiful got up it 5 to-day & lade to In the when we saw The old towers I had deen before + The

Mount Men - Bur a hunter prohed to up again and took us to auther little Klima prent. and later to a grantic laterite artificial mount inthe a gre · Irial town on top of ir with a deep well down the couler of Must stop & go to Irel, In wanted you to be the first to bean the news as you saw The heads first

19 March 62

told her our here aboutin) -I drew you dragram of the course of we strong uns crazy to go an find ir without a guide in Spir of Boela I fruit lile an old hours pige Ethan Smay + Kurt weir with Me - Two weeks lake 2 would Boelas to go law I canedow inthe Hen + a tengraf 104 So I sent him with Born Stra Enny & Kunt who photographed ir and measured ir and is now drawn a reconstruction as usual Boelas Says its impossible to figure which head came off which body, Intwe have the dinensias of The heads and To directions of the blank space Olis all the Bhodisalis hour un arms and The Blunddas two - Sometimes I Think Bools is a slow unted moon wen though I like lim very much ar the end of three years he is svill wiring a two page article alor Than 16 cy vry 30 Dr Vain Formsen Van Jen

She had to go wey where with Alex grisworld which loved her as she only my look ruins or Temples or collections about 2 hours a day and the rest of the Time was lime or teamy or dumeny - The Spent me every here without thin which as wonderful as we pound over everything in The house - She wants to publish my palarquir Hooks a Whole Collection of Klumen Granzes dropped in my lap from a famor from Ploo Roc.

Two Paleinis, prennily called dancing African cowing the group-One is the best one alive - Very beautiful with a plan in one hand and a discus in The often Luay Boulal called me last wech + I ran up to see hi He would me to long or 4" lugh Seavend lings Buddle from Clary 8th Couly Surgaya with a head like a Boroladining In 50,000 Trals = I had to decline & told line to sell is to Party or Chalempol - 21 was worth about 15,000 at the Most - Its wech had been reparedels

I am very health, mor, har will go in May to Chicago to the greatest expect in the USA on amordice + hourse of the liver from to make sure Horse as its so fall of more - more beautiful Things. Keo Jeh died of disterger which was very Sad, Inr Fliffy + Blackie will guard.

## COPY

October 8, 1962

Khun Dhanit Yupo Director General Department of Fine Arts Bangkok

Dear Khun Dhanit,

I understand from Mr. Vitaya and Mr.Chin Yudi who called on me several weeks ago that you are very concerned about the five white limestone heads that I have in my house, and I think it better now to give you the history of the heads and the cave from which they came to put an end to all the evil rumors that are circulating.

About eight years ago I visited the ruins of Sri Thep and while there the villagers who lived near the ruins said that it was said that on Khao Sam Rat there were wonderful caves full of beautiful sculpture. My companions with me were very anxious to go see the mountain, but at that time there was a dense jungle between the Pethhaboon road and the mountain, the first rains had started and the jungle was impassable even for a jeep. We saw it would be impossible to get there and thought maybe the villagers had exaggerated the wonders of the mountain, and so we returned to Bangkok.

I had hoped to go back at the end of the rainy season to expore the mountain because in the meantime my interest had been very much aroused by reading Quaritch Wales book called "Towards Angkor" in which he has written several chapters on Sri Thep.

In this account he mentioned the mountain on which lived two hermits who were teachers of the King of Sri Thep&s son, and the story of how one of the hermits was responsible for the destruction of Sri Thep. I had decided that the mountain the villagers had mentioned must be the same one on which the two hermits had lived.

However, due to the pressure of work, I never returned to Sri Thep until last February.

In the meantime, in the early summer of 1960 I came across three beautiful white limestone heads which were sold to me as Srivijaya heads. One was the head of a Buddha, one of a Bodhisattva and one of an unidentified deity.

The following year the large, very beautiful head of a Buddha image was brought to me and another head of a

Khun Dhanit Yupo, Director General, Dept of Fine Arts (Page 2)

Bodhisattva, both of white limestone, It was obvious from their style and material that they were from the same area as the other three heads.

It was at that time that I began, very tactfully, to try and find out from where they had come. Eventually I learned they had come from a cave on a mountain near Sri Thep.

This mountain, I thought, must be the same one I had seen eight years ago. I knew that there was no use in trying to get any the one to take me there because they would be afraid that I might talk to the Fine Arts Department and they would be arrested.

Over Chinese New Years 1962, two friends of mine and I started off to find Khao Sam Rat with the help of an army map. When we got near the area we found a lumber company had been working in the area around the mountain and that a lumber track now ran to the base from the Petchaboon road.

With little difficulty we drove to the base of the mountain where we found the lumber camp. One of the children at the camp said he would lead us up the mountain to the cave. After an hour and a half of climbing the little boy said he was lost, but we found two hunters who said they would take us the rest of the way.

At last we found it. In the center of the cave rose a large stalagmite which arched into the top of the cave. On the front the of the stalagmite facing the opening was a large Buddha image minus his head. Next to him was another Buddha image also minus his head and on the right side were the bodies of several Bodhisattvas and also another figure which might represent the donor of the cave.

However all these figures were in rather flat relief, and the first three heads I had acquired were almost full relief, and I knew they could not have come from this cave.

We asked the boy if there was another cave on the mountain and he answered yes, but a giant naga lived in it and it had been sealed up. At first he hunters said they would take us to it, but evidentily they changed their minds and lead us down the mountain instead.

Knowing that everything takes time and patience in this country, and not wanting to push things too fast, I decided it was better to leave now and come back at a later

Khun Dhanit Yupo, Director General, Dept of Fine Arts (Page 3)

date to photograph the cave and make measured drawings of it.

Three weeks later I was to leave again for the cave with my two friends and Mr. Boeles whom I had told about it. Unfortunately I came down with a high fever and bronchitus and could not go, but the other three did go, and made photographs and measured drawings of the cave. Again they were not shown the second cave.

It was after that trip that I asked Mr. Boeles to tell you about the cave. The reason that I had never said anything before was that I was afraid that people would become timid and frightened of arrest and that the cave might never be found and any other fragments that had been removed would not be located.

I have spent a great deal of time and research on this project so that the cave can be studied and drawing 5 made of its original state.

It is my hope that someday the care sould be completely reconstructed, but the of course that can not be done until it can be properly guarded. For the time being, plaster casts could be made and replaced on the bodies. This, of course would take time and much hard work.

To clear up any misconception about my collection or my self, I would like to put down a few facts. I have elected to make Thailand my permanent home, and as I live here and am very interested in the artistic heritage of the country, I have tried to build up as fine a collection as I can to leave to this country. I know that the museum does not have funds to buy many of the fine pieces that turn up, and rather see them leave the country, I have tried to buy the really exceptional ones to keep them here. I have paid very high prices for many of them, but I knew that If did not, they might have gone for good. Due to this fact, many dealers who trust me have made it possible for me to buy very exceptional pieces of sculpture and preserve them for the country.

However, if a police investigation is made and notorious publicity results, no dealer will ever show me another fine piece again, my collecting days will be over, and many important objects will be lost to the country.

I hope you will believe that I am deeply interested in the archeology and the preservation of the beautiful things in this country, and am not making a collection for financial

Khun Dhanit Yupo, Director General, Dept of Fine Arts (Page 4)

advantages or selfish purposes. As much, or perhaps even more than well known Thai collections this house and its contents will belong to the Siamese people since I have already willed it to them by way of the Siam Society.

Sincerely,

JHWT/ss.

James H.W. Thompson, Kanaging Director

21 April 64 Dear Lisa -Many Thanks for your lotter glad to hear you are load in New York. Ta Do is worse than ever - Selling more and more fine Johns - and the Time anto Dear Ruther riches them - But all The really fine paids that Turn up go to New york on London art very lugh prices - The most beautiful 10 Carry Uma I has even been went to London -

Carol Wu fast part The Vahamese Mest 100,000 Trals for a Klimer Male head that Peng Seng And was the most beautiful Kliman break be brad liver Deen - He had to get it list she bear him out. and so it gres -I have dunged my will and am Mot leaving my line to The Siam Society, and trave resigned from Their Connal - This to Show my dissiprival ar Dhanis Greating his growise to the Scan Society and me and they not taking any action on or -

I Shall end up mure Sianiese than the Stamese - The new Museum and Theathe are both So unbelowably glasty That fust on general principals? World Mar leave This brandful line to any organization There had one Stamese in it -Sunday I Somet The most Magnificent Dark green Kang Schi Bullpox men 12" High m a beautiful famille Verte Heragual base - Have hever been anything like him. He looks beautiful

on the duy Table with red & Pule Bongain alliers Comport of his back My beaucharong Collection is better and better. The prices are impossible, our I am Tunj in the Smithsmian Pantungs In them so I get a 3000 Tiels Lynd for a painting that I god A10,00 for as juiling have gre Shy lugh too The Steres is a howling Ancessfor must one back and live in is line again - It is so breakful

and ir sounds like Carregie 1 (all - Dean came Iach yesterday and Irrigar 3 Beethover Synline Sisowar died either from lating Tohays on a shahelis-Cody & Jory ne both fire-The tomists are pory who the Home up to 150 a day The Blind School never had it So good - White som Will see you in Syr I hope-Tous Tr

31 May 69 Only you who have leved in Scan and are sympatheric usual understand what I have been Through for the last-forthinger To make a long stong as shor Compay had a shortoge of sile to the Time of Hoo, 000, willal. Mot do very long ago - 2 gar Serii Pramojs office to moestigist after Several false starts and what

Mar, The young lawyer (very mice) seemed folde in the trade a week ago Friday is seemed almost Solved - all the widne pointed to Math- Two of his nucles Educated in England, that in London - Princh (supposelly a best friend) and she is Two others Said they that helped Math to carry on Jolh to make neckles, Shirts et but he had smehmes much more than he needed of That -The Lawyn from 2 Back accounts in Several Backs that had beg

300,000 to 500,000 That in Them from time to line - Charles was to leave Sunday - Said he could not leave, alone in The dilema - 2 sand yes, go Ir all means - 2 can take Care of it sek ek. So Chales left. I am god he did as he haves morses - to do there was so much unde toolog, that I heprory on when into malh with never a word mentioned alone what was going on Bur The company was in little groups gossip-gosig-gossig-

Halmain was hore to do the Dueus undrobe to grece to Austria - Colle Vins to de designed for our Composition of Mewgrus designs to be priviled - Tomists to Julentain at Miger Sven moming Math came for me to go so the weavers. He gave due vins to my her guden Store the garden el as usual Off rerosst the Klong - Sometimes Meally fealt like Ery to think thour This would be the last wech we would live with together. Every beautiful sill I had ever mode,

every stole I had worked no, who made it possible for 2 do have a very dop votion for him or vica versa ir 2 was so busy, Thank god? 2 2 had called a Directors FMeeling of yeslands The Kuz & Queen - The Kuz & Queen after Closing Twice & Balman an well - gave hather

Me the final order of One Shihir- Othar Miger lawya came and explanel weight to me - I said he must do the Same to the Die das Saluka, mor Sar. Mong nath - I doslud to the weavers before the meets to Speed up orders on the Oben. I did feel a little Danielez - Sofar welled Never said a word - 9 left I Balmain who learn to Panis That Migets \_ Then went's

Meer The Diedros - The Lawyer gave all the reasons - trav pointed to Mathe authabilen. 2 ashed the Directors if they wanted to speak to him, and begits be excused - 2 war. downstains, found hall and said stoold be go up to the Meeting. New back to all the consymbolice ek. Frially The Directors were Throngs. Prach had been called in also and accused nath they left -) who has any establishmer in the Prich Said Wath was imocent-

Mai Tokee, a sort of underf Maths, Sand the loss causedly Math was most probably much worse than what showed on The books, Mai Ulol -Moderne Assa, the Pres, Sand They though he was quelly -Disquesting little Jith, Purchi around he and sand Pon Jim, how awful for Math to do all this when the had been So brind to him and faved his lifz - ohyes heighty"- 9 whiled to vonder \_ 5 to 1 Said he was guilty - I said

Oil will the lawyer with up his dismossel for me to sign The Dievors decided is was better for Busshow to ask him to Hosign - The meeting was Dream - 2 wear dom stains Chunney was finish The Dalman mortie Math Came up, sail Boss Jim Song! 2 Couldn't Day aughti- 9 worked all afternoon as the Prinking plant - one to duries-Suday many on my way bach from Flower Marker, I fort

We talked till lundrtuine She told the all almostradis later odvertues with multiple maniages - his kalons of frath Thew Houses for his hew wife, how he would to got med of hatt. She told me a lor worthain I kidn'I han also - She said be was alsolitely unsend of The 400 000 Tis low I worked at the printiplant all xfremon - ar 5.30 hath appeared at the line - 2 meg have hosed him on both cheeks I was so glad to see him -

I had already told Busslom I used las the lawge talk to her and learn all the other Hung he kid nor hum alow. I didn't listen to all Maths explanations - I said why dish's you tell the lawyer all this. hath Said " he mever asked me -Math Said do you would a withen resignation or Shall I prosted yn Boss - I Sail heep away In the Congan for a weekcome our all night -

I loss he is - We loth Started to cry \_ I never knew 2 could be so toolish Before 2 hour of 15 people came for coch lails Is he or con the gulty? 2 don't think so, In told lim I was the last one to defend him as everyne was galous of his being in my good I Himpe is to how als in 10 days - The Duedons neet next Sarande both en vacance Thanh god. Hops it's all straiger by their revun. Love Jin.

Mm 20 64 Sanfor Den Lisa -Enclosed are some photos of the latest additions to the T. Collevin - Still mot very good Photos - I tell Dean he is The lowly 10" longe Blodisation? P.S. wanted 80,000 Richs for, so? Tunal in The large Stone Visialiama for line. He is the lovelisis wage ? hour lover had - I wor like to six r Lookar lin. The photo does motion

The Stree Haritana came from Cambodia - He has the face of a football player - gov lingen P.S. Nether Cheap to PS I supposed payd nothing for him. Vismu in gradas canie Mongs aranya Phather - Suppose from John La Plank is here with a town of 13. Have asked then to Cocktails to - Monner Um exhausted from 2 Soled weeks of enterain on going our. Ist night deme in 14 days queto-hast night was too Kralon-Went out on rivinity suiss was too Kralon-Went out on rivinity suiss

16Ay 66 Will be in M. J. The I sept. 30 coll de go befrettlans. Cilianes Days Fursal une hour the house all punished er for you. You can always love sheers & dishes from me as I have lots of them. BIII, Palmer inll below lieae from 1 Sept to 15 oct.

. Wisfallmen plan E (Im brygg) a Kole Kenstme E 2 ml Quarter 10° Centry head Shun 1/2 Parost. Boissellier say in should be Envliere people can see N-Spinle, Wolfe, Connée, Doyles Latelrofid all turser donn Je recau.

Je beauch side to

Side to is free Mornasellais will be hare tiel

[No DAE] [IM THOMPSON ]

Jeb- 23

Dear Lisa Many thanks for your letter.

When told me he wanted to do a

When told me he wanted to do a

War Bronnines (?) and other places

I made (onnic Mangshan heep one of his

Dain was for her own use: I think?)

Paint was also from Princis Cholem

Warn fur also from Princis Cholem

Wheths latate. He never hard anyth,

Kheths latate. He never hard anyth,

to me about Payaburana. He should

to me about Payaburana. He should

to me about Payaburana. He should

to me have also from, So get in touch who

be have beenes of Rome, Paris, mir Venn

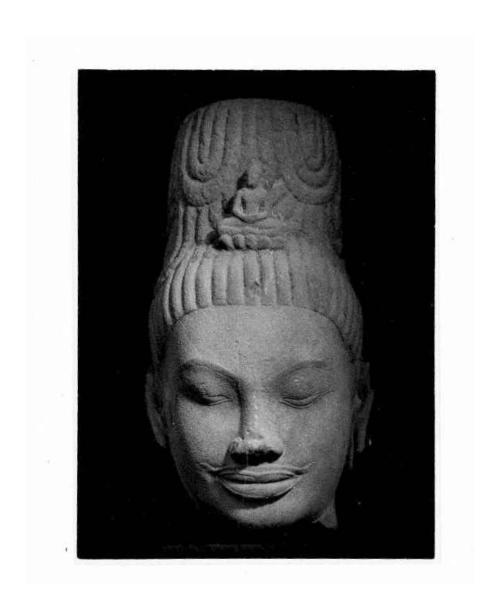
Did ture scenes of Rome, Paris, mir Venn

etc.

I want to Pluya Rome, is to during

aweile land + Juan Boro ban Shard

The Dides of Rajalrumin- on The Screen they were bluned. Bar he gave Pluga a paughter inthe colored photos in ir that looked cleaner If ir was her frall To tomist stype I would do some work from the farline, I have so ex houseled from the farline, I have a lies, fever and some thrown. also my cars bearing are bruned not, Such the driving is in the hospital for a month with peptic alcers that have been with peptic alcers that have been Nem wed. My refugiror and water pump are also Insued our. over \$ 20,000.00 US worth of sille to the Luchin + Mons The Starkendam, Kunghen Caronin arrive. The latter on March 21 or as a Birth day gift Will with again when 2 am in bother condition - affectionably



26 Pec Rear Lisa -He is much tune beautiful train tus rather dull pleats of lein - Sook up The Hari Hara from Saulor and The Lakelini or Plum Blum Musem - The 7th Couly mes - They have the same Hope you had a good Xwas was out Haa Herin it days of got to. In the last miger - got to. Sri Thep over new years tor In 15" Sands Pone - Month East Theiland is a

Dear Jim:

Nice to get your letter this morning with the photos of your collection. I hope you have, by now, recieved my last long letter about the book. I wrote it a day or so before I got the pictures of Nai Lert's brushes. They were exactly right. Whoever took they m is damn good...and thank You.

In case the letter is lost, IS11 go over the situation briefly. The NY raphic Soc was coy for months, before I got to the right man. Now they are very excited and want to do the most beautiful book in their history. They do the Unesco ones. after the Ajanta one. Unesco got into trouble over that one and will take on no work by an individual. They must send their own crew. This policy may have been only in the making when we were talking with them, but they (Graphic) say Bellew is impossible

Anyway they say that since nothing exists on the subject that all the museums and universities of the world would eventually want the book and so they think of doing 10,000 copies in 3 languages, with 50 color plates. Cost, without advertising or overhead would be 70-80,000! And they, of course, must pay that bill within 18 months, maximum, and they figure it will take 10 years to sell out the copies. So in come the foundations. The Asia Boc will sponsor it and hold the collection plate. This is John's new group, and he is interested, but will not take over the whole cost. We are now making complicated plans with other groups. The Bollingen people will do something, details not settled. The Amer Council of Learned Soc. thinks they can help in the fall, and the Asia Foundation thinks they can take over 1000 copies. This is still being worked out here before they send it in to their main office so Noel doesn't know about it yet, but he will be asked for his opinion. Right now, they think of giving some away to schools and temple libraries, and selling a batch at cost to the Siam Soc for their members.

I still don't have enough copies guaranteed and am out hunting. I also must get bids from other publishers, so far they are too expensive. I see Pantheon on Mon. (Color plates must be done in Europe or the cost is astronomical)

And I have a date with Burton Fahs, who just came back a few days ago, on Tues. I am going to ask him among other things to make a grant so that Supat could do a Thai translation which could be tucked into the Thai copies.

I have written Sue to ask if she has any ideas on how the Thai gov't

could get into the act.

How many copies do you think you could sell at the Thai silk shop? T You could get them at cost and sell them at a bit more, and perhaps get your investment back before mildew eats up the pages. They would have to be sold at more than the Siam Soc copies or the Asia Foundation wouldn't play.

Anyway, I am now sure that we will eventually come out with a beautiful book..although it may not have 50 color plates, and I really think 35 would be enough. I may explode before it is all done. These foundation people have chouds for brains and todays idea is scapped by the next week.

Do you have any friends in the Ford Foundation. They keep saying that publications are not in their program, but I think I havn't hit the right division yet. It is as big as the government and one office has no idea what the next one is doing.

Certainly wish I could come back and work on the Siamese art show. And my name is being mentioned to all concerned, I gather. The Popes told Rockefeller. But the museums feel that they should have someone who has already handled international shows and knows all the pitfalls of shipping, insurance etc. I say I could learn, but they do have a valid point, and when I think of the trouble 6he Thais can make in that line, I shiver. I have heard they want Tomita of Boston to go. Of cou Of course he doesn't know Siamese art, and he is a Jap, and neither quality can be called an atvantage. The only hope is that he will be too busy with the Korean show which will come in the fall.

And now to your collection which is very very exciting. What in the world is that kneeling one? Brahman? Righi? It doesn't matter, nor its age either. It simply bursts with energy. I wish you had put the sizes age either. It simply oursts with energy. I wish you had put the sizes on more than two of them. This one reminds me of Minky's T'ang foreigner.. has the same timeless vitality. And that is a beautiful Chiengsen menk one, a type I don't usually fall for. You know, except for two, they all have that feeling of inner energy which is the mark of good sculpture of any age. You feel that they are held by an invisible hand and if that is taken away the figure will bound into the air...and probably give off flashing lights. Only in those very rare cases where the forger is a great artist does a fake give you that feeling. And then can you really say its a fake..it is just a fugitive from time.

The only two which don't send me are the Uthong head which seems a bit smug and bland, and I think he has a spear rammed into his brain. seems out of proportion. Could it have been added? The Khmer? one with his hand on his knee bothers me. A beautiful torso, but the hand is poor, and the face seems terribly soft. Could it be Auythis? You don't have to take this seriously. I've seen and taken enough photos to know how light distorts them. The Met takes two kinds of photos. One with dramatic lighting for postcards etc for the public, one, a long time exposure in dim even light for their records. Some times it doesn't Some times it doesn't look

like the same object. About the article I did on the Fangkok private collections. Salmony gave me the wrong deadline date so it arrived too late. He wants it

expanded into a longer article and giving more background because people don't know enough about this area to make reference points. And I have become so interested in a Dvaravati theory that the article has grown logsided. He mow thinks we will make it into two articles, so I nibble away at it in odd moments. I am hunting the source for the Dvaravati leonine type. Like your stone head. Look at the big one in the museum where it is even more clear. Bulging eyes and almost a muzzle, like a lion. I think this is the earliest Etyle, and a Mon original creation. Asoka sent missionaries to this area. Some of the Asoka columns are topped by a lion repersenting Buddha as the Lion of the Sakyas. Did the Thais or Mons, I mean, take this literally?. The Gupta Dvar. type is found in Ceylon and Cambodia, some of the prekimer ones can not be told from the Siamese ones, but old lion face is not among them. He is not in India either. I've been doing quite a lot of digging. Don't mention this to the museum people, I want to come out with it.

Enough. Do you know yet when you might come? Thanks for the photos. I'd love to see that European style seated one with my own eyes, From

here it seems to be a gem.

Dear Jum-

Snow-snow-snow - day long - night long - still going on -long 
Thy evoty terrore is clean + row - the allonthus trees are white

Sambounga corol - At's sind An - A'm just back from

my first real night out on the town atro fall of collect

and now bunger for steep - On howing a not with a run

- thinking - shall & put on steeks a boots and go for a

walk - Do you remember from snow falls? - and that

the first snow is never cold - and that it has an atritical

scent - and you wish you wan to yours old + had a

Furious Piyer sted in the genage -

Chank you for your very sweet better about mining - it sient - you know - reading that it would wrist hom so much - only a little, it thought. But it came back to meet thatis & want + bank the came to be meet thatis & want + bank (the bill onl) - & this about the man among the boys-

Now d'us finished the milk - staring out of the window of at the snow + thinking of that - - that you have that here a wond boys quality too - + wondering if you could see the same way - with a beautiful collection + only one finend - he had been hunt so much by people who used him - that he closed his heart - Direct you - if you were stop finguing the faithese this heart - Direct you - if you were stop finguing

I must be a little tight on thest rum + milk + dithink the work is to make a sound is the William to a sound is the milk of the winder in the city is the milk of the milk of

and thought it had been finished and sent -

back in grove - dank - dank - danp - males me meters and cross - will

First - could you please remember to asked Sue of she had called spee a had them ship the paintings - she was supposed to when she came back from Manila - but she doesn't mention it - in fact it has been ages sing she has written -

The pictures of your house — I called maniel Dewen as soon as I got them - but the was busy - said to come for dinner on Thurs (this week) and bring them - some of the colored ones are vary good - but the only good interior is too dank - None of the black or whitese are usuable - some thing happened to the film of the whole roll is fogged - There is no receive good one of your ether in color or black or white - Could Emerns for each them are others - The Jun they are for me or have han send them APO - That would be quicken or I will have them developed here - the should take one of your either sithing to the Burnwere budded is behind you - or looking through the power shop doors with the new he side you -

The Status painting book — Cummings - the coupling Press - Unasco man is atill on a Florida vacation (so are other people & want to see) However & and pating advice - most interesting and encouraging - Every one thinks it is usually and wents to help - I nearly

myo deta soumes , myo deta soumes , myo deta soumes,

I still think Oresco works the the past - but .t

Is like playing tag in a tondon page to find out

befinite setails - Thay act like a secret service organization.

Le worked of like a secret service organization.

Que this idea when wearby - the director of the Freeze

que this idea when wearby - the director of the Freeze

reached so anthousiastically when a showed him the color

plakes in washington - So die Criffings of Honolume o

Fullor of Seaths - At & earld get all the museum

tirectors to push it - Oresco should be impressed.

(The nime of the Freeze both want lactures but their

schedule is plantal with summer - the dads seemn 
orded of the ores of a sample.

Conquery change are very much alive - and a will report and demander and so down que up hope - thou were the paintings in that now wat you found - worth taking? - I'm sure you could get Rochen to be some if you can true him long enough - 4 you can remain and you ask him what make is no projector - at seems batter than any a hour found and a hour found a trained have so for -

Home seen a bit of Russel wright since d'un been back - and he may be a nather dell man + a not very quod designer - but he is a good person + is doing

an excellent followup job on that ICA project - (which was so fraces up in Brailous) They will uncentrase on Formosa a Witham - really very business like a good young cally beorgean who is also a business man will go to Furmose next month - the gets the Chinese to organise their own factory - for around - of ration chairs - tells thou how to improve the design so it will called in the O.S. - to apiets them in touch with the dist distributors who have been lined upthe storys at least 2 years to sweat - werse + police the factory managers - It seems to me intelligent + I can't see wany all of you were so some - except that you know policing that production is a life time job -Do you know Priva non kine? - The Combodian ambassedor? a nice hole pallow - but he dung - guinaus see nother a will test clean up a friend of Freedy Rhainmonets says he is in wash. as an empt. State Dapt. commeter & will probably be given a very large gob source - I could not find out anything about attitudes toward Bishop - How is he behavior those days - "

Emonth - marte soon -

667



Honolulu -NO0 31

Dear Jun -

Sure one is marrie told me to go to the Drewaln noted - but so was here to year ago - at is now heavy taiser's "Howallan village" - will cannot be Howaii - but wire. Everything is Thatines in paints pink - + station wasons are both - But it is comfired to. For biro - it have a very pleasant nat - with five planting + not want + a swall that mouse who is now sitting wast a cour niveling the diana & waget home and - a beautiful wheterer poles gent beach. Had it am men this place - a wrote name free - + part more for less comfort - a trace. any many is along the section of the were allow as not easily of a rise car baseal assembly a careau

The weather is beneficed - is not frequent about air a their t could be something light - engat - any - goes down into the take - make you present and the new seen south a freeze part in it alter menetified in Branghot nows, two, court it. Two trace time true to your names where is you was not the withing remain to go is more than . The court wien to yet made rach with some . I we see in see in see . It say a gent . Don't se owner by a silverion. The man has an untimitée supply of tomorrows . Go look at uset Pra. the caronia will come egan - or it will seek in the wise and we'll in the distance ment year -

D'un cappy too- Out the wateries great energy was have shall - a representation of a substitution of a substitution of a substitution of the sound o

The museum has has one scanner paretry - a bestern with a security see have been with a security of law a large stone throughour a fund some is composition. I have seen is composition. I am security the purious to heavy borrows.

And that reminds me - Don't be so have on Super - He is pumping for a young man - but he is a vary shight and - reasely their best - + a stung our - and he is not corrupt. He is pumping pomping becomes in wants to to us his father did - Hu father wants much in an international write - but in a packwater - smay - in born - corrupt little nation - he was a man who tooked outside a little - the die found a manual - he de little nation - he de little nation - he de little nation a respectable writing - to super nature has an easy time? Intuition two works - S rems anaextano why his sister wondows - with your - decime beans then that it was poon - + decimit bean the story - Sie was anaextano the nation that it was a story when has to be one analy to story - and fine above - mass up a story when has to be one analy to story - and fine above - mass up again. That your of his - but anaextandor.

and a react toursel won't last much longer. There don't give they a small court of super new + trees. By him with the Basilies. Details him to thom Elong - bet with him to some when he gets amorping. The way he all the same boxes his some was when he gets amorping. The way he all the same was a him to person to offer all the is - + him hims

Peris nut is 10100 a day because it is 50' from the dance floora becarie occurring . I court rough because it don't go to be experted as state of the square framework orders to section, They are now pluging an authoritic Volquesian walvely called "Orrestmas in Hawn" - with abstric quitar + lynes about the Washing ramaner - singing - & toward to buy you Xwas presents in the Philippines but were a located of thought - no - you would Not wear an empressive shirt - you would not put your trove nappens in me shall or current have nappen wings. I could not we coconer well am trupe - w have painterwith nous shall lade - we it sie not tries for water com to charte that netween to lay of above fire famous - you was you was a distrito most seconstruct more often bet - so a tome on of Employ man want for records toward from Nige Do you now any special cross seems stown to such appearance processing were so every . I am young to was that was absertioned wetern soil concitioner wares & wanted to try in Bunghole clay. will good a tecture at the processor have on those on Security painting - conflict the devactor was knowled over when I showed how the short we know a subsection of with and men will be at git first it sackson thicking an a by the 20 - bo where I will from a force towa - will be at 2714 Hudden St. They work - by Jun 1

mamila - --- - - & with county with a verter will

I've tired from a really rapped southern trip . too times to go to but - and that may be one reason your taken depresses by to make I did come to love thouland, and a feed such a helpers sick forestration about it cometimes - hot ques at the man who stole his new national treatment and offered is for sale - but the Bouglos museum people was the happen - and the quentiment was don't got the item a gree stage - and the the words are that more was well take of for the reserve fine with their sounds your mes up energian so there can be no anchresograph neces - and that went be done anyway a because who cause except a few secretors who court thour the punts for be true. and purpose I'm not such a grad gerson a then because I certainly air sublines that it is not on the in exploration trop too as I would seem down of should take a deple and goods to be - - - - or were d'un also depends by the people have - Duthe South I was taken to all the arts + truses schools - at all que of fine Ica equipment - and all turning out stomacus tunning train - with trays like somewhore + becoming with rates women chimbing but of their + ans hand punted small tamps - There was for for sway I staid . I wasn't polite - I stormed at the pour - 17 bline continues - Everything of the contract party over in bountiful - the recover - the strapes bambins

I then to Portland + Seattle - to Richard Feller - -3801 E. Prospect - Seatto, 2, wash. Then to Chrisque to look at the manum & a collection - no address. Then Dec 18- 28- 912 First St. Jackson, Unichigan. en and then a small - potent , shall be good knows what 11 - dust to to one agt, at 514 Hudson St. Nige 14a stan Him & north - constant near Him & with make a or sport of son waster to meet black coller - and then wayee is will angues and bean the suit cases. I am - trees to mount ? Right now it wish a was a submore . huns wife who had never gove west of albany - but d thenk that are notion may last 2 weeks flow backs In fact . it I would gave talking and go to bed miller be useway but to morrows of another day - - - - parmer is another see That was very sweet of you to send one of your new big plain stoke by Sue - is broutiful color - + when ame I put in an with a block ever - Carl said & must take out a paleint - and now that Panus has said that lawner + violets are the colors of the quan I will be chie for when will a go as far as buying a hat - it would . Af so - A will begin with a Davy Crocket coonstant one for January - with a pumper bone trad anound the toil . Chante you -" will write from Housen when I'll have time to think a lost a strape - any must be be to be a surround and

Dear Jim

I'm up an hour early on a gray Monday to write you, but am so

sleepy that such noble effort may be entirely wasted.

Had a long pained letter from Sue which said she had arranged for the paintings to leave May? and I might have checked up (before I was so nasty) "might have checked up" I read that three times and giggled hysterically the rest of the evening...might have checked up! For six months I've been polite, plaintive, wistful, and then abrupt, but not one word about the paintings until I roared in sheer anger.I'm sorry to have made so much fuss, and that it has turned into so much trouble, and have written to that effect, but I still thaink that if she had asked Arco in Nov. his memory would not have been so dim, and I also would have them by now.

But where do I start the story of "Temple Paintings of Thailand" With the months of sifting through publishers? It only convinced me that they make a living, and that the public gets any good books purely by divine luck. Everyone wanted to do it, but... I could get a University press if I would make it into a cultural history of Thailand with footnotes and a few black and white pictures. Or a regular publisher would do a sort of white woman in the jungle thing... one said that the paintings would give it "class". Meanwhile I was writing to Bellew and everyone in Pariw, and to the NY raphic in Greenwich, which seemed as remote as Paris. And with the writing on it and the thesis and working part time at the MMA, and getting George on his own feet and off mine I would decide every week to give it all up and flee to shell collecting in Zamboanga.

Finally I got an appointment with Cummings and the Graphic in Greenwich and away I went, neat and even chic including white gloves. When I got off the train I caught my skirt on something but didn't realize until I reached the office that I had ripped it. Completely! My whole pink slip bottom was hanging out. I was practically walking around in my maidenform bra! It was the first hot day. I had no coat. There was absolutely nothing to do but to walk in and say that they were probably used to recieving poor authors with holes in their shoes but that one with no seat should be a novelty, and could I sit down? It was far too absurd and impossible to be embassing and I dove into business. But it was really good fortune, and I don't suppose we can refer to it as the "face" of fortune. Seems that when the staff recovered a few days later they decided that anyone who could remain unpreturbed in the, well..rext rear of such odds should be an asset in their stable.

Skipping ahead again. They are working out details of doing a big edition in at least two languages, English and French, and are thinking of perhaps also German, and a translation into Thai which would be looseleaf and stuck into those for Thailand. Fifty color plates. The estimate for this is 60,000\$ They think that 10,000 copies would sell in 10 years. They, of course, can not keep their money tied up that long, so we must have a subsidy, some in cash and some in guarantee.

all afternoon annined This morning-I am now in the middle of complicated arrangements. The new Asia Soc. will do something, but not all. The Bollingen has a fund from which they can give aid, but they can not give it to a commercial In Thans press and the Graphic is neither purely commercial not purely non-commercial. However, if the Asia Soc will take it on as their project, then the Bollingen can give them the money, and the AS is free to use any kind of a press. In Oct. the Amer Council of Learned Societies gets the use of a fund from which they can also give help. The Asia Soc is getting me an appointment with Fahs when he comes back to town next week to see if I can raise any town money from that division. And the Graphic is working out a detailed cost sheet. I can forsee a summer of endless discussions and revisions, but I have the conviction that I will live through it Calling anound to see a book even more beautiful than we dreamed. a that name dann I wish I could think of some way to get the Thai gov't to come with some support. Even if it were only token support...like doing the translation themselfes, or signing up for 300 copies, this would make it international and then I could tap some other funds. Do you have any ideas on this? Do you know what high Thais have any influence on Prince Wan or Pote Sarasin?

I finally found out about Bellew and UNESSO. Seems that they had much trouble with the Aisnte book the first of the sarais. Garage N PRO had much trouble with the Ajanta book, the first of the series. Trouble with the author, trouble with the quality. They will no longer take any individual work. They send their own camera crew, 1 N. K and get a national of the country to write the text, and they are also so wary of entaglements that they won't do anything that they havn't thought of first. When the Graphic wants papers signed, they have to send a man to Paris to put the pen in Bellews hand. Kussell W. called - Devangan has sent him - strong endus more of By the way, they say they can use the Unesco distribution channels for the painting book. angkor hater - The asia soc will make it their first formal project -They won't put up all the money - but they will hold the collection plate - and now you can ask any of your wealthy finends to 3 contribute to the asia soc. Siamose Painting Fund - How many Hertuing. copies do you think you could sell at the Bloar Sile Co ? will be anxious to see Emerg - + happy to tell him he will get his atpenses at least -(HOLINA) \$ your collection sounds wonderful - but migand - where do Ĵ you now put quests ? -2 when are you country - Munical sours Oct - annamente sours We'll take "Suly hisa

#### Dining Room

#### Cabinet; First on right of door (No.F)

- CC 1 Annamese blue and white four lobed, ovoid vase with top. Have mark on base, H. 9° 15th C (?)
- Blue and white bowl, lotus scroll design. Shop mark on base. H.228 CC 2 D.44 . Early 16th C 11 warled vase, four cleans drugge decips. I To
- Blue and white bowl, similiar but not identical to CC 2. Shop mark CC S on base. H. 21. D. 47/8 . Early 16th C. less or totale. Unided, they make
- Blue and white vase with narrow, long neck. Design in six panels, 00 4 lower: flowers and rocks; upper: cord and tassel. H. 113 ". 16th c.
- Blue and white six sided panel vase. Design of flowers, fruits, & unidentifiable object on table. Has been broken and repaired. H.  $7\frac{1}{6}$  " 17th C. and white white with Change For Assert whe glown

Charte sayes on these

Provide and the second second second

- in very sack time. Blue and white bowl. Primitive design of deer in landscape. Diaper CC 6 pattern on inside rim. Bottom: fruit and leaves in double circle. Shop mark. H 2 7/8 " D.6 ". 17th C.
- Blue and white bowl. Peony and scroll design. Inside: lotus in double ring. H. 3". D. 6". Chia Ching mark but is probably late 16th C. 00 7
- Blue and white covered bowl. Glase worn. Grayish blue design of stylised flowers in formal balance. Perhaps Japanese. H . 62 "with cover. D. 62 ". 17th C. CC 8
- Blue and white bowl. Floral and leaf design on exterior & interior bot-CC 9 tom. Iron spot. Shop mark. H. 27 ". D. 6 ". 16th C.
- Blue and white bowl. Glaze water worn. Grudely drawn design of dragons 00 10 on exterior, leaping fish inside bottom. Poorly written Hsuan Te mark. H. 2 g ". D. 5g ". 17th C.

#### Dining room (2)

- Blue and white dish. Deer in landscape. Scale pattern on rim with six medallions. Sandy bottom. "Swatow" ware. D ll: ". Late 16th C. 00 11
- Blue and white deep bowl. Exterior: pine branch design. Interior: grape vine. Peony bottom circle. H D Crudely written " Ta Ming Nien Hao". 16th C. CC 12
- Blue and white bowl. Peony pattern on exterior. Immer rim: disper. Reserve leaf and flower. Bottom shop mark. H 5" D 6. Late 16th C. CC 18
- 00 14 Blue and white small necked wass. Four classed dragon design. H 72 " Late 16th C. Market Many mack, 18th C.
- CC 15 Blue and white bowl. Peony and scroll design. Reserve flower and leaf inner bottom. Cracked. Shop mark. H 22 ". Early 18th C
- Blue and white bowl. Exterior: pine branch design. Interior:grape wine. Glaze worn. Poorly written " Ta Ming Nien Reo " H 5 5/8 " D 7 ". 16th 17th C. CC 16
- 00 17 Blue and white plate with fluted rim. Peacock and flower design in very dark blue. Chatter marks on base. D 12 & ". 16th C.

### 00.38

CQ 28.

- ON TOP OF CABINET all bowl, dragen & poury design on outside southered florel innies, diaper gire border, West " Diam of ". Blue and white deep bowl. Landscape on outside and in circle, inside bottom. Inside rim border of doughnut shaped forms. H 42 " Diam. 82". CC 18 17th C. Date water meals read to green trives interlined flores pattern S.C 22
- on cutwide . Class creckled, creaks, ris oblined. N 25 \* Dies St. 00 19 Blue and white vase. Lotus scroll pattern. Glassy glaze, H 13" Diam of neck 5". Prob. 18th C.
- blue and shite plate, imper denies of decty funges ste, Message Blue and white wase with pyrimidal top with lotus bud finial. Besign of lions and silk balls. Seal mark. H ll " without top. Top 52" - diam at neck 4". 18th C. CC 20
- blue and white bowl, four flower consillions un outside. Unreadoble sank on term. S 20 \* Dies 5; \* 1746 G.
- tion and white ween, hough poter a seroll design. Flue has from another neglected beam, pinking, M 48 7, Minny mack 28 4, 18th C (1)

#### Dining room (3)

QG	322	Cabinet, second to right of door. of in better, Four character * Long
		Top shelf - from left to right:
	21 52	Blue and white, small bowl, crude, lotus and lion (?) design. Lotus and scroll in circle, inside bottom. One character mark Two cracks, nick on rim. H 22 ", Diam 42 ". 15-16th C.
	22	Blue and white small bowl, design of birds & rocks, peony flower inside. Form misshapen. Shop mark. 16th C.
	25	Blue and white, flat rimmed plate. Phoenix & flower design; flower and ribbon on border. Chipped base rim. Shop mark, 17th C.
	24	Blue and white vase. Design of women and children. Lip rim cracked. H 52 " Diam of neck 23 ". 16th - 17th C.
ĢC	58	Nime and white wass - puony and secoll, gaircons, Sect chipped. If $4\frac{3}{6}$ " - dism nock 1 $9/6$ ", Assessors, 18th C,
CC	25	bottom design. Pale blue color, water-worn glaze. Sandy bottom
OG.	60	17th Oud white equat vaco - flower & soroll design aloud coller. Flut anglesed base. Orsels on one side & Mile flow. H of " Diem neck hi " . 15th C.
	26	Blue and white small bowl, dragon & peony design on outside - scattered floral inside, diaper rim border, H 22 " Diam 52 ".
	357	Late 15th (?). Year with cover. Flored band, sunflowers (?) and latters. Hadroon band at base. Humber bonder on neck, Top lates
CC	27	Blue and white small bowl - symmetrical interlaced floral pattern on outside . Glaze crackled, cracks, rim chipped. H 22 " Diam 5". 16th C.
CC		Blue and white plate - door in landscape - floral corner, unglased have H 250, Diss 120 " . Neth G.
CC	28	Blue and white plate. Inner design of deer, fungus etc. Meander pattern on rim. Metal rim. Small, unreadable mark within large
00	29	double circle on base. Diam. 72 . Late 17th C. pacale elternating diament pattern a flows. Top has contored floral design - mail bila flow. Dies is blaceplast. So sign of wear, Anguage, 16-17th C.
CC	29	Blue and white bowl, four flower medallions on outside. Unreadable mark on base. H $2\frac{3}{4}$ " Diam $5\frac{1}{4}$ " . 17th C.
CC	30	Blue and white wase. Rough peony & scroll design. Blue has iron spots - unglazed base, pinkish. H 42 ", Diam, neck 23 ". 15th C (?)

### Dining room (4)

THE PERSON NAMED IN COLUMN TWO IS NOT

- CC 31 Blue and white bowl with lip. Lotus and scroll design. Diaper border on inner rim, flower & cloud in bottom. Four character " Long life, good luck " mark on base. Hair crack, chip on rim. H 2 3" Diam 52 " . 15th C.
- CC 52 Blue and white deep bowl. Design of horses and clouds, floral circle inside. Four character shop mark. Rim chip, hair cracks. H 53 diam 7". 17th C.
- 00 38 Blue and white dish freely drawn grayish blue flying birds and scrolls. H 1 7/8 " Diam 10". Annanese 16th.
- CC 54 Blue and white bowl. Peony and scroll design. Very rough " Ta Hing Nien Hao " on base. Kiln flaw in glaze. H 23 " Diam 43 " 15th C.

COS AND

- CC 35 Blue and white wase peony and scroll, gadrooms. Neck chipped. H 48 " diam neck 1 7/8 ". Armamese. 15th C.
- CC 56 Blue and white squat vase flower & scroll design cloud collar. Flat unglazed base. Cracks on one side & kiln flow. H  $5\frac{3}{4}$  " Diam neck  $3\frac{1}{2}$  " . 15th C.
- GC 57 Blue and white vase with cover. Floral band, sunflowers (?) and leaves. Gadroon band at base. Meander border on neck. Top lotus leaf shape floral & leaf bands. Flattened knob with point. H 7" (without top) Diam 5 " (top probably new) Annamese 15th C
- CC 58 Blue and white plate deer in landscape floral border, unglazed base H  $2\frac{\pi}{6}$ ". Diam  $12\frac{\pi}{6}$  ". 16th C.
- CC 39 Blue and white round box and cover. Design in 8 panels alternating diamond pattern & floral. Top has centered floral design small kiln flaw. Blue is blue-black. No sign of wear. Annamese, 16-17th C.

#### Maria of Bacon

### On top of cabinet:

00 2

- Blue and white tall necked vase. Lotus & floral design in 8 panels between raised ridges. Bamboo and prumus on neck. Above that is a slightly flaring top, design of rising leaves; this part is a restoration. H 12 7/8 " 15-16th C CC 40
- Same as CC 20 but H 112 " without top. Diam. 4" . 18th C CC 41

California Charles on right of Sear (In. F.)

- Blud and white deep bowl. Lotus & scroll design inside and out disper pattern inside rim. Iron spots in glaze rim chipped. CC 42 H 3 7/8 " Dism 9". 15th G.
  - The and make the trick divice, here they further in air pecals, herear flowers and reaks; uppers only one tested. He sill a little. DC 4
  - Hims and white als alded passed owner, the time of firmore, fruite, & DE B understation object on this. Les more tracks and rejuired. S. W.
  - 6 83 Dive und widte built. Petritibe werige of they in Ameleony, Discorpastern on incide cin. Southern fruit ma Daloge in track sircle. Shop suck, E 2 7/8 t 5.8 t. 17th C.
  - line and white brail. Prompt and nepall testion. Lander loves in deable ring. H. 5". D. 6 ". Ship Weine many but is probably late 1860.0; GG 7
  - Blue and white covered burst. There work, Egypteb blee design of siye 05 B lised flowers in formal balkum, forther funders. H. of with never. D. 62 ". 1745 C.
- Dine and white boxl. Florel out less and ordin or exterior & interior but-tom. Iron spot. Supp mark, H. 25 % D. 6 %, Lath C. DE S
- the and white bowl. Glass water worst, Cressly from design of dragms on exterior, terping field inclin bother. For existing Reason to mark, H. & S. R. D. S. F. 27th C.

TRANSLATION OF STORY PUBLISHED IN LAK MUANG (NEWSPAPER) MARCH 14, 1968

IDENTITY OF PERSON DESTROYING ANTIQUES DISCLOSED:

SAID TO BE A MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON: HE HAD BEEN CAUCHT "RED-HANDED"

BY OFFICIALS

It has been disclosed that persons reponsible for the destruction of Buddha images and antiques are most influential foreigners while the other is a high government official, thus making it most difficult to suppress their illegal operation.

An official of the Fine Arts Department disclosed to "Lak Muang" on the morning of March 13 that persons mainly responsible for the destruction of Buddha images and antiques, are foreigners and a high official and all of them are most influential. He went on to disclose the method used to steal Buddha images and antiques. These influential persons used their own men, a jeep, and tens of thousands of baht to pay their men. They would send this jeep and their men to places where ancient ruins are to be found, even going deep into jungles. Whenever they found valuable Buddhs images or antiques, the men would dig them up, load them on the jeep and bring them to their employer, who would give them special payment, depending on the value of the antiques they brought back with them. Their employer would then store the antiques in a place where it would be easy to smuggle them out of the country. Though Fine Arts Department officials tried to search the places where these antiques were stored, the person guarding them who is a trusted employee of these influential persons, always managed to prevent a search from being made by putting forward a legal angle as excuse.

The report from the same source said that these thieves stealing the heads of Buddha images once went to dig in search for antiques under a pageda in a certain province. The provincial governor therefore informathe Fine Arts Department and officials were sent at once to stop the thieves. But when the officials arrived at the pageda, a high official attached to that province warned them not to interfere, saying, "If you knew who had sent them here, you would be alarmed". So the officials were not able to do anything, as usual.

The case leads are reserved been as the topology of the topology as an electrical term of the topology and the topology of the

There are many foreigners who are destroying Buddha images and antiques, and one of them was Jim Thompson, the Thai silk king who vanished mysteriously in Malaysia. The Director-General of the Fine Arts Department once discovered many very valuable antiques in his possession. He therefore tried to negotiate for them to be returned but Jim Thompson refused to return them. The Director-General of the Fine Arts Department therefore had no alternative but to report the matter to the police. A few days later a very influential person gave dinners in honor of the Director-General several times and tried to persuade him to withdraw the charge he had made. The Director-General remained adament, and when the time limit was reached, he again made the same charge, and the case is still in the hands of the police to this day.

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## Annex 15 A Buddha Head "Looted" by Jim Thompson

The excerpts below show a Buddha head obtained by JT during the 1950s and "transferred" to the National Museum of Thailand in 1962. The Director of Fine Arts accused JT of "looting" this and two other heads, so the head was not "transferred," it was seized by the Director, and hence is now in the National Museum. This seizure backfired badly, since JT was so bitter that he sold off a good portion of his tremendous Thai antiques collection, which he had been amassing for transfer upon his death to the Siam Society. The excerpts below are from John Guy, Lost Kingdoms: Hindu-Buddhist Sculpture of South East Asia (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014).

PUBLICATIONS: Fine Arts Department 1961; Bowie 1972, pp. 32, 35, no. 3, ill. p. 34; Fine Arts Department 1992, p. 61; Sukchai Saising 2004, pp. 80–81; Fine Arts Department 2005c, pp. 19–21; Phatcharin Sukpramun 2009, p. 194; Zaleski 2009, pp. 175, 176, fig. 8.

#### CAT, 148

#### Head of Bodhisattva Maitreya

National Museum, Bangkok

Central Thailand, late 8th century Removed from Khao Thamorat, Si Thep district, Phetchabun province; acquired by James Thompson in the mid-1950s; and transferred to the National Museum in 1962 Limestone H. 14% in. (37.5 cm)

The hilltop cave Khao Thamorat, about nine miles (15 km) west of the first-millennium moated city of Si Thep, has one of the most extensive sculptural programs devoted to Buddhas and bodhisattvas in mainland Southeast Asia (fig. 139). It contains at least seven reliefs on a

stone pillar in the center of the cave, allowing for circumambulation (pradaksina) by devotees. At least two bodhisattvas appear to depict the future Buddha Maitreya.2 All the relief heads were removed by robbers in the 1950s, but most have since been recovered.3 Also reportedly from the cave is a gold repoussé plaque, possibly part of a foundation deposit, that depicts a seated Maitreya making the gesture of exposition (vitarkamudra) while holding a flask and flanked by a dharmacakrastambha (Wheel of the Law pillar) and a relic stupa (fig. 130).4 The figure's high, conical coiffure compares closely to that on this stone head and affirms the predominance of the cult of Maitreya at the site. The same iconography-the Wheel of the Law and a stupa flanking a figure—is depicted in a relief of a meditating Buddha in the inner section of the cave.5 On nearby elevations of the natural rock interior are three standing Buddhas and two standing four-armed bodhisattvas.6 The present head, identifiable as Maitreya by the depiction of a miniature stupa in the headdress (jantmukuța), belonged to one of these figures.



The long-robed Dvaravatt-style preaching Buddhas may be later in date than the bodhisattvas, which stand in flexed postures and wear short waistcloths more in keeping with the bronzes of the period. The presence of these figures could indicate a long period of monastic activity at the cave, whose relative isolation suggests that it served as a rainy-season shelter for monks in retreat. Dvarāvatī-period inscriptions do not speak of monks' pursuing such austerities but do refer to hermits, learned Brahmanical or Buddhist ascetics who lived outside society. A Sanskrit inscription at Si Thep names a Brahmanical hermit, Wayasa Rusi, and an inscription in the cave at Khao Ngu, Ratchaburi province, specifically refers to hermits in Buddhist cave sanctuaries.7 Indeed, it may have been such secluded monks who sculpted the devotional images in the rock at Khao Thamorat. PUBLICATIONS: Bangkok Home of James H. W. Thompson 1959, pp. 30, 31; H. G. Quaritch Wales 1969, pp. 82-85, pls. 50, 51a; Bowie 1972, pp. 40-41, no. 10a; Boisselier 1975, p. 106; Pisit Charoenwongsa and Subhadradis Diskul 1978, pp. 96, 221-22, pl. 46; Srisakra Vallibhotama 1989, p. 57; Wichai Sankitatikon 1992; Brown 1996, pp. 87-90; Woodward 2003, pp. 91, 108; Sukchai Saising 2004, pp. 233-35; Saritpong Khunsong 2009, pp. 230, 231, fig. 4; Piriya Krairiksh 2012, pp. 81, 82, ill. no. 1.66. NOTES: 1. For a fuller discussion of the cave, see Pattaratom Chirapravati, "The Transformation of Brahmanical and Buddhist Imagery in Central Thailand, 600-800," in this volume. 2. One head, much damaged when chiseled from the cave interior. appears to have traces of a stupa in the crown, reproduced in Bangkok Home of James H. W. Thompson 1959, p. 32. 3. The majority are preserved in the

Removed from Khao Thamorat, Si Thep district, Phetchabun province; acquired by James Thompson in the mid-1950s; and transferred to the National Museum in 1962 Limestone 11. 14% in. (37.5 cm) National Museum, Bangkok

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#### CAT. 149

## Candraprabhā, Personification of the Moon

Central Thailand, late 7th-8th century Probably found in Si Thep, Phetchabun province Repouse gold H. 1 "x-in. (10 cm), w. 1 % in. (4.5 cm) Victoria and Albert Museum, London (IS.27-1987)

The practice of personifying planets has Vedic origins in ancient India and was undoubtedly part of the veneration of the elements in Southeast Asian antiquity as well, although no evidence survives. Among the earliest depictions of the moon and wan in a Buddhäst context in Southeast Asia are found in the fifth- to sixth-century stone reliefs at Sei Ksetta, Myanmar, where they are consistently positioned to the left and right above depictions of stupas or honorific umbrellas evoking the Buddha's presence (cat. 26). The moon is indicated as a slender

## Annex 16 Accommodations and Resources in the Cameron Highlands

As a resort area, there is a wide range of choices for accommodations in the CH. Any of the usual hotel/travel on-line search engines can provide prices.

I stayed in the Moonlight Bungalow, from which JT disappeared, for 400 Ringet (about \$130 USD) per night in room 3, supposedly JT's room. I was told later by a respondent that this was not in fact the JT room, contrary to what the landlord stated. I also stayed one night in one of the cheaper rooms in the former garage. This cost only 100 Ringet, or about \$33 USD. There was no air conditioning or heat in either room. The MB has been painted, but is not restored sympathetically, and the furniture and décor are inappropriate for a museum house. The owners are cutting away a giant part of the hillside to build a second access road; this is not welcomed by the community. Making a reservation at the MB is impossible from outside of the CH, since the staff are incapable of communicating how to make a deposit, and will not take credit cards. The only way to make a reservation is to physically go to the MB and put down cash. Hence it is best if you want to stay at the MB to make a reservation at another, better organized, hotel in the CH, then go to the MB and make a reservation in person. Parking is free. Meals are not provided. Neither are ghosts who whisper the answer to the mystery.

I stayed for a number of nights at the Century Pines Resort Cameron Highlands in Tanah Rata for about \$75 USD per night, and was reasonably satisfied. This is one of the three hotels in town that was in existence in 1967. It is about 300 meters from the center of town. Parking is free. Meals are provided.

The website <a href="http://www.cameron-highland-destination.com/outdoor-adventure-travel-camping-sites.html">http://www.cameron-highland-destination.com/outdoor-adventure-travel-camping-sites.html</a> provides information on two camping locations in the CH. Camping is not a popular activity in the area. The prices are very cheap -- \$1 USD per night at one site and free at the other.

There is a SAR team in the CH, with an office in Brinchang. I was not able to contact them, despite various efforts.

There is reportedly at least one HRD "cadaver dog" team in Malaysia.

Good hunting!

**LMT** 

# Annex 17 Biography of the Author

Llewellyn "Lew" Toulmin grew up in Thailand between 1959 and 1965, while his father helped establish the Thai Bureau of the Budget. Lew never met Jim Thompson but of course heard about him and admired his work and life. Later in life Lew worked on government reform projects in Thailand and visited the Jim Thompson House a number of times, and was always curious about the mystery of the disappearance. That curiosity led to this report.

Lew is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and member of The Explorers Club. He is a founding member of the private Missing Aircraft Search Team, the author of a manual on finding missing light aircraft, and has led or participated in searches for light planes, missing persons, lost towns, lost battlefields, and vanished plantations. Some of these searches have been "inside the fence" with law enforcement as sponsor and co-participant and access to all police/SAR materials, and some "outside the fence," using a purely private approach.

He is the author of various professional and academic articles in *Public Administration Review*, *Urban Affairs Quarterly*, *The International Journal of Mass Emergencies*, and *Disasters: The International Journal of Disaster Studies and Practice*.

Lew holds a Ph.D. in public administration and economics, and has worked on projects in disaster management, emergency response, public administration reform, telecommunications policy and management analysis for 20 US Federal agencies, various US state and local governments, and 30 foreign governments on every continent. He is the former head of the Section on Emergency Management of the American Society for Public Administration.

Lew's foreign projects, ranging from a few weeks to 2.5 years, have been sponsored by the World Bank, US AID, US TDA, Australian Aid, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation and other donors. He is currently working as an advisor in e-government for the Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Vanuatu.

Over the years, Lew has been approached or offered positions of various kinds by the CIA, NSA and KGB. He turned them all down.

Lew has traveled to over 143 of the 196 countries on Earth, and is a member of the Travelers' Century Club. He has published over 150 travel and adventure articles and a non-fiction book, *The Most Traveled Man on Earth*. The book title refers to the top two travelers in the world at the time, namely Charles Veley and John Clouse. Toulmin's ranking as a traveler, according to Veley's website, is in the top one hundred thousandth of one percent of the persons on Earth. Lew is a contributing editor and columnist for *The Montgomery Sentinel* of Maryland.

Lew's website is <a href="www.themosttraveled.com">www.themosttraveled.com</a>. It includes his downloadable manual on searching for light planes, under "Lew's New Adventures." He lives with his wife Susan in Silver Spring, Maryland; Fairhope, Alabama; and Port Vila, Vanuatu.

#END OF JIM THOMPSON REPORT#

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